THE

HISTORY

OF

FREDEKICK the Forſaken.

INTERSPERSED

With Anecdotes relative to ſeveral Perſonages of Rank and Faſhion in *England*.

In TWO VOLUMES.

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HISTORY

OF

FREDERICK the Forsaken.

A Few days days after, Louiſa ſaw Mr. Kemp, who by the way admir'd her fortune (for he was ſtill unmarried) and look'd on Frederick as his rival. 'You were at the maſquerade I think, madam?' 'Yes, ſir, replied 'ſhe, I expected to have ſeen you there, and as I 'did not imagine you wou'd have known me, in-'tended to have rallied you.' 'I am apt to be un-'fortunate there, madam, but I believe you ſaw a 'gentleman of our acquaintance, Mr. Frederick.' 'I did ſee him, 'is true, but hardly ſpoke to him.' 'I ſuppoſe he was too deeply engag'd at the tables, 'to have any time for converſation?' 'No, re-'turn'd Louiſa, I believe he did not play at all, for 'he went with Mrs. Johnſon and Mr. Vincent, and

'they never play, and he kept with them the 'whole night.'

'I thought, replied Mr. Kemp, he had, and pret-'ty deeply too, for I know that he borrow'd two 'hundred pounds the next night, which I imagin'd, 'by his eagerneſs to get it, was to ſatisfy ſome de-'mand of that kind, but I might be miſtaken.'

The ſum, the time it was borrow'd at, his ardency, all conſpir'd to make Louiſa think he was that guardian angel who had ſent her the jewels, and ſhe wou'd almoſt have given one of her ears to have been convinc'd that it was he: ſhe queſtion'd Mr. Kemp more cloſely, but learn'd nothing from him, but that he believ'd Mr. Vaughan knew on what account he wanted it, ſhe determin'd, at the expence of her pride, to ask him, but he was as ignorant as the other.

Mr. Vaughan told Frederick of her inquiries, which irritated him againſt Kemp, and he certainly wou'd have reproached him with it, but he fear'd that wou'd lead to a diſcovery.

Louiſa was reſolv'd to find it out, and the next time ſhe ſaw Frederick, 'I dreamt, Mr. Frede-'rick, ſaid ſhe, that I receiv'd a preſent from you, 'and with it a letter, ſubſcrib'd Brilliante, pray do 'you ever uſe that name?' Frederick was confounded, bluſh'd, look'd around for an anſwer. At laſt, 'If, madam, I thought that name was a-'greeable to you, I wou'd never uſe any other.' His manner of anſwering convinc'd Louiſa, and ſhe return'd not without confuſion, 'I ſhou'd be highly 'ungrateful, if that, or any other name you choſe, 'were diſagreeable to me.' Here their converſation was interrupted, and both long'd to be alone,

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to contemplate the different ideas it had rais'd in their minds.

Louiſa was no ſooner free from the incumbrance of company, than ſhe began to reflect on Frederick's behaviour; it was certainly a very generous action, and his manner of doing it, made it more ſo; his ſecrecy, his reſpectful behaviour ſince, when the belief of her ſuppos'd imprudence (for ſhe rightly gueſs'd, that he thought her loſs at play, had oblig'd her to it) might have embolden'd him to have treated her with more than ordinary freedom; all theſe contributed to raiſe him high in her eſteem; but then what pain did her pride coſt her! to think he ſhou'd be induc'd to think meanly of her! that ſhe ſhou'd owe an obligation to one ſo much her inferior! then came a turn of gentle pity, that he, who by his prudence, avoided running in debt, ſhou'd do it for her, and laſtly, how ſhe ſhou'd repay him, without creating new confuſion to him and herſelf. All theſe different thoughts by turns agitated poor Louiſa's gentle breaſt; and had ſhe ſearch'd farther, ſhe wou'd have found a more perplexing one, namely love; for tho' ſhe was not yet ſenſible of it, yet certain it is, that ſhe more than barely admired our hero.

Frederick was not leſs diſturb'd than miſs Edwards; he was heartily ſorry that ſhe had diſcover'd what he intended to have remained for ever concealed; he knew her temper, and gueſs'd the uneaſineſs it muſt give her, and then his love would willingly have ſaved her the ſelf reproach, which he feared it would occaſion; he had hopes indeed, from her well known generoſity of temper, that it might induce her to return that love, which however he

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he could not bring himſelf to the thoughts of declaring, even before; and his delicacy now laid a new reſtraint upon him, leſt ſhe ſhould think he took an advantage of her. Then he was puzzled too to think how ſhe had found it out, he had been ſo extremely cautious, that he cou'd only think ſhe conjectured it, and this gave him ſome pleaſure, as it encourag'd him to hope, that he was not the moſt diſagreeable of her acquaintance, nor the laſt ſhe would chuſe to be obliged to, as he was the leaſt likely, from his ſmall fortune, yet the firſt ſhe had pitch'd on.

He reſolved to continue his viſits, and to behave in the ſame manner he had hitherto obſerv'd; he hoped fortune might put them more on a par, or at leaſt that ſome favourable moment, more ſo than any paſt, wou'd offer, when he cou'd declare his paſſion without fear of a repulſe.

With all this delicacy, it may be imagined Frederick had an equal ſhare of conſtancy; but my readers will wrong him, if they ſuppoſe him ſo deeply tainted with ſo unfaſhionable a virtue, as to ſhut his eyes to every other beauty. An accident drew him into an amour, little conſiſtent with his love to Miſs Edwards. Going one evening to Vauxhall, the firſt perſon he ſaw, was his old inamorata, Miſs Martin, and her friend Mrs. Warner; he turn'd to Mr. Vincent, who was with him, ſaying, 'I muſt get a female companion, or that lady will 'think I am melancholy, and I would not flatter 'her pride ſo much as to induce her to pity me.' It ſeldom is difficult to gratify ſuch a deſire, at that place; and Frederick ſoon eſpied two girls, who did not carry much reſerve in their looks; he addreſſed the handſomeſt, with thoſe compliments which very rarely fail to obtain a civil anſwer at leaſt;

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and in half an hour he was as perfectly free with the ladies as was requiſite for his purpoſe. They frequently met miſs Martin, and he contriv'd conſtantly, as ſoon as ſhe came in view, to ſay ſomething diverting, that ſhe might take notice of their good humour. Miſs Martin met with company who ordered a ſupper, which Frederick no ſooner obſerved, than he carried his party into an oppoſite box, and order'd one more elegant. After this entertainment, he inſiſted on conducting the ladies home, and he had already affected ſo much paſſion, that he could not in politeneſs forbear begging leave to viſit them, which was, after ſome little heſitation, granted.

Theſe girls were two of that multitude of unhappy ones, who are brought up with notions far above their ſituation, and by being long inſtructed to deſpiſe every body who are their equals, aſpire to matching themſelves with their ſuperiors, and when they fail in that view, prefer ſplendid infamy, to honourable induſtry. Frederick was diverted with their affectation and flippancy, and, to fill up time, reſolv'd to viſit them. He paid his devoirs to her whom he had firſt addreſs'd, and found himſelf treated with ſo much deference, that he had no time to reflect on his inconſtancy to Louiſa, or the ruin he was plotting againſt Miſs Williams, for that was his new charmer's name; and not to lengthen my ſtory more than is needful, in a ſhort time prevailed on her to become his companion. She was really pretty, had a good deal of wit, and was miſtreſs of moſt of the boarding-ſchool accompliſhments, and Frederick was thoughtleſsly fond of her; thoughtleſs it may be call'd, for he ſtill continued to admire miſs Edwards, to brighten when ſhe ſmiled, and to droop if ſhe frown'd. His heart was

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not one of thoſe confin'd ones, which can admit of but one love at a time; it was capacious enough to contain the moſt tender and reſpectful paſſion for Louiſa, while he was attached to another object.

Tho' he was as prudent as cou'd be expected in this affair, yet it did not long remain a ſecret; miſs Martin had excited Wilton's curioſity which he gratified very eaſily; Kemp had the pleaſure to find Frederick's notions were enlarg'd and ſarcaſtically congratulated him on it. Miſs Edwards might have remain'd ignorant of it, ſome time longer, but for the following tranſaction.

Captain Wilton ſtill ow'd Frederick a grudge, for his eſcaping the ſnare he had laid for him, and the contemptuous manner in which he had reſented his perfidy: he accidentally ſaw miſs Williams, and lik'd her well enough, to wiſh to ſupplant Frederick. He found out her love for dreſs and diverſions; and as he was better able to ſupport her pride than Frederick, he did not doubt but ſhe wou'd accept his offers. He wrote to her, in the moſt paſſionate manner, but by her returning no anſwer, began to fear he was miſtaken; he wrote again more preſſing than before and begg'd an interview, and now had reaſon to think, ſhe had more virtue than he ſuſpected, for ſhe anſwer'd with aſſuring him ſhe wou'd acquaint Frederick, if he dar'd to trouble her any more. Wilton was not ſo eaſily to be repuls'd, but repeated his offers more earneſtly than ever. She was as good as her word, and ſhew'd Frederick all his letters. Frederick's love for miſs Williams was not of that kind, which on the mention of a rival kindleſs into jealouſy; he was indeed inrag'd at Wilton, but that

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ſo moderately, that he determin'd to be revenged, by making him ridiculous. After a little ſtudy, he inſtructed miſs Williams in writing an anſwer; in which ſhe told her new lover, that unable longer to withſtand his offers, ſhe had reſolv'd to accept them; but fearing an interview at her own lodgings might be dangerous, ſhe wou'd come in a chair to his; begg'd he wou'd be ſecret, and appointed the hour ſhe wou'd attend him. Wilton was overjoy'd at his ſucceſs, and unwilling that his triumph ſhou'd be unknown, he provided an elegant entertainment, and invited ſix or eight officers to be witneſſes of his happineſs. As they came before he expected the lady, (he without regard to her reputation) entertain'd them with the ſtory of his love, crying her up to the ſkies, and bidding them expect to ſee the fineſt creature that ever they beheld. In the midſt of his raptures came a thundering rap at the door, he look'd on his watch, which he had before plac'd on the table, and cried, 'Punctual, to the very ſecond, 'prepare to meet a goddeſs!' then he flew down ſtairs to receive her. The chair was brought into the hall, and out came the lady, muffled in her cloak, and a great hat ſlouch'd over her face, to prevent her being known, by any who might acquaint Frederick. Wilton kiſs'd her hand as he led her up ſtairs, and whiſper'd his gratitude; then leading her into the dining room, preſented her to his gueſts, pronouncing,

This is the eaſt,
And Juliet is the ſun!

Immediately a maſculine voice anſwer'd, 'Yes, 'Mr. Wilton, and will dazzle your eyes with its 'beams,' and lifting up the hat diſcover'd captain Frederick!

Wilton quitted his hand, and ſeem'd loſt in amazement and confuſion; the gentlemen burſt into a loud laugh, which Frederick gave them time to indulge, and then proceeded; 'I'm much oblig'd to you, ſir, 'for the favour you deſign'd me, but am ſurpris'd 'a perſon of your judgment, cou'd ſuppoſe a girl of 'miſs Williams's ſenſe, wou'd quit me for you. But 'that you might not loſe the pleaſure of expoſing 'your folly, I contriv'd and have kept the aſſignation.' Never did man look more ſimple than Wilton did, he was commonly very free and overbearing, but now he cou'd not find one word to ſay; at laſt, mutter'd ſomething about ſatisfaction. Oh! ſir, cried Frederick, 'If you are not ſatisfied with this, I'm 'ready to give it you, your own way; I forbore 'demanding it of you, thinking ſo vile a plotter, be-'neath my notice, but ſhall never be backwards 'when I am call'd to anſwer the demands of honour; 'name your time and weapons, and I'll certainly 'attend you; you find I am punctual.' The gentlemen, who had hitherto been highly diverted, thought proper to interpoſe, and one of them begg'd all diſputes might be deferr'd, and that they wou'd only ſtudy to entertain the lady, ſaying, 'I think 'we have all been wanting in politeneſs, to let her 'ſtand ſo long, pray, captain Wilton, permit me to 'hand her to a chair.' Wilton, who was as arrant a coward as he was a villain, tho' mad to the heart to be thus treated, had not ſpirit enough to reſent it. 'Well, gentlemen, ſaid he, you ſeem to 'be all mightily diverted, and I don't love to inter-'rupt mirth, therefore ſhall paſs over this lady 'gentleman's menaces;' and then ringing the bell, bade his ſervant bring up ſupper, with as much compoſure, as if every thing had happen'd to his wiſhes. Frederick willing to mortify him as much as poſſible,

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took his place at the head of the table, and perform'd the honours of it very politely, and by ſeveral bright ſallies, diverted the company as much as he vex'd Wilton. After two or three hours diſſipated in mirth, he order'd his chair to be call'd, and wiſhing the gentlemen a good night, took his leave of captain Wilton, with, 'Sir, I ſhall expect to hear from you to morrow morning.' Wilton made him no anſwer, nor did he intend it, for that very night he ſent his ſervant to beſpeak a poſt chaiſe, and left London by four a clock, the next morning.

As there were ſeveral witneſſes of this ſcene, it ſoon became a publick ſtory; Louiſa heard of it, and the pain it gave her, firſt let her know, that ſhe conſider'd Frederick in a different light from the reſt of her profeſs'd admirers. After ſome general reflections on the infidelity of men, her uſual generoſity return'd; yet why ſhou'd I accuſe him, ſaid ſhe, he never made any direct application to me; and if he had, ſhou'd that be a reſtraint on him? No, I hate that narrowneſs of ſoul, which wou'd confine a man's thoughts entirely to one object. Jealouſy has a meanneſs in it, which I deſpiſe, and tho' ſome women imagine it a peculiar mark of eſteem, and of a refin'd way of thinking, yet they often betray an indelicacy of ſentiment, when they think to excel in the reverſe. If I do eſteem Mr. Frederick preferably to the reſt of men, it is for his ſincerity, his friendſhip; I regard not the vain tribute of flattery, and common place compliment; then why ſhou'd I be diſſatisfied that he pays that tribute to another? No, I remember my obligations to him, nor will I reſt till I can in ſome meaſure repay them.

An opportunity ſoon offer'd; captain Wilton was oblig'd to ſell his commiſſion, which Vaughan hearing of, ſaid one day to Frederick, when Louiſa was preſent, 'I wiſh, Frederick, you cou'd get Wil-'ton's commiſſion, 'twou'd be a charming thing for 'you, and wou'd add to the mortifications you have 'already given him.' 'I join in your wiſh, repli-'ed Frederick, but as it is not in my power, muſt 'content myſelf without it.'

Louiſa liſten'd attentively to this diſcourſe, and inſtantly reſolv'd to make him maſter of his wiſhes, which ſhe was the better enabled to do, by having juſt received a legacy of ten thouſand pounds, left her by an uncle, who died ſome time before in Jamaica.

Frederick had heard of this addition to her fortune, which was far from giving him that pleaſure an avaricious lover wou'd have felt on the ſame occaſion; for while it plac'd her farther above the reach of his hopes, it gave her more power to indulge in thoſe liberties he condemn'd in her; and it wou'd have given him more joy that an abatement of that ſum in her fortune had happen'd, provided her follies had been diminiſh'd in proportion.

Louiſa did not know exactly what ſum wou'd be ſufficient, nor did ſhe chuſe to enquire, but being unwilling to ſtint him, ſhe inclos'd a draught on her banker for a thouſand pound in the following letter,

To Mr. Frederick.

Sir,

YOU may with reaſon think me ungrateful, but I aſſure you I am never forgetful of benefits. I hope the inclos'd, of which I beg your acceptance, will be ſufficient to obtain the place your friends wiſh you to enjoy.

I am, ſir,

Yours, &c. &c.

Louiſa Edwards.

Frederick was quite confounded with the contents of this epiſtle; for ſome moments he remain'd motionleſs with ſurpriſe, at laſt, 'Dear generous girl! 'how much I ought to adore thee! yet more I cannot than I already do! but hold, perhaps ſhe is 'only intending to be juſt: no; I will hope that's 'not all; ſhe cou'd long ago have found means 'to repay the trifling obligation ſhe ow'd me. She 'has obſerv'd my attachment to her, and ought I 'then, to think on any but herſelf? how I deſpiſe 'myſelf for my folly! while I had it in my power to 'deſerve an angel, to devote my attention to a mere 'woman!'

He reſolv'd to wait on her directly, and on his knees thank her, and declare his love, but fear interpos'd. 'If I ſhou'd be miſtaken, how will ſhe 'puniſh my preſumption: will ſhe not think me 'mercenary? and that I am to be brib'd to love her? 'But ſhou'd ſhe think more favourably of me, how 'can I venture to affront her virtue with my pollu-

'ted vows, when I know ſhe has heard of my indiſ-
'creet, my criminal engagement. I will break it,
'and when I have convinc'd her and the world of
'my reformation, then, and not till then, will I
'preſume to ſpeak.'

Again, perhaps thought he, her knowledge of my imprudence is the very cauſe of her generoſity, ſhe deſpiſes me perhaps, and therefore takes this method to let me ſee, how very much I am her inferior. If ſo, tho' 'tis Louiſa gives, I'll not accept it. No, a benefit confer'd with ſcorn, wou'd make the receiver poor indeed: I'll wait on her this inſtant, and by her looks diſcover her intentions, ſurely gratitude can't be diſpleaſing. This laſt reſolve took place, he went directly to miſs Edwards, who receiv'd him with that heart felt joy in her looks which ariſes from the knowledge of having done well. A ſweet ſmile added a grace to her agreeable features. 'Mr. Frederick, ſaid ſhe, I did not ex-
'pect this favour, I thought I had cut you out work
'for a week at leaſt.' 'Madam, replied he, 'twas
'impoſſible for me to think of any, till I had paid
'my acknowledgements for ſo unexpected and ſo
'undeſerv'd a favour.' 'Come, ſir, return'd ſhe, no
'ſpeeches, I'll ſay for you all that can be ſaid, gene-
'rous minds, Mr. Frederick, (that's by the way
'of compliment to myſelf) take more pleaſure in
'giving, than the moſt ſelfiſh can in receiving. Let
'us forget paſt obligations, and only ſtudy how
'we can confer new ones.' Frederick was now ſatisfied that he had wrong'd her in ſuſpecting her capable of acting from pride or reſentment, and was going to ſpeak with raptures, when ſhe interrupted him with, 'I know before you ſpeak all you can ſay;
'if I have ſerv'd you, I am ſatisfied with having
'done it; and all the thanks I demand, is that you'll
'not

'not be under any pain, at receiving what's but a 'trifle to me. I ſhall expect to ſee you as ſoon, as 'I may give you joy of your new commiſſion.' Frederick underſtood this as his diſmiſſion for the preſent, and took his leave, very well ſatisfied with his reception.

He thought he might, without farther caution, go and receive his money, but the thoughts of that, or how he was to diſpoſe of it, did not baniſh one of thoſe ideas he entertain'd of Louiſa's generoſity. Yet, thought he, it is not generoſity alone that ſways her, why did ſhe mention conferring new obligations, why expreſs ſuch ſatisfaction at ſerving me, why hint her deſire to congratulate me on my ſucceſs, if it was only generoſity? but alas, I fear I'm too vain. 'Tis indeed a trifle to her; but at leaſt I'll endeavour to deſerve her love, nor will ſee miſs Williams more.

Here he cou'd not avoid regretting that he had been the firſt to conduct her into thoſe paths, which her inclinations had long before pointed out to her. Her behaviour had convinc'd him that it was not from a principle of virtue, or love for him, that ſhe had withſtood Wilton's ſolicitations. The charms of novelty were now no more, and he experienc'd, that however pleaſing the careſſes of an admir'd object may be, yet virtue is the only true baſis, if any there is, for love. Having receiv'd his caſh, he return'd home, ſtill full of Louiſa and his own unworthineſs; his firſt ſtep, he determin'd to be his ſeparation from miſs Williams; he reſolv'd to endeavour, by his advice, to bring her back to reaſon; but as he ſtill fear'd to encounter her reproaches and intreaties, he ſent one of the hundreds he had juſt receiv'd, with the following letter.

To miſs Williams.

Madam,

SOMETHING has happen'd, which makes it impracticable for me to ſee you any more, and this ought to be far from giving you pain, ſince you muſt think me your worſt enemy, as I ſeduced you from the paths of virtue; for which I am moſt ſincerely griev'd. I wiſh it was in my power to reſtore you to that ſtate of innocence, in which I firſt found you, but that, alas, is vain! accept then the inclos'd, which I hope will ſave you frou farther guilt and diſtreſs, till you can re-eſtabliſh yourſelf in your mother's favour, and this by her behaviour already, I hope you will not find difficult. Strive to forget for ever the man who has impos'd on you, return to virtue, and be aſſur'd you will find more joy therein, than vice with all it's gaudy bribes can give. That you may deſerve and gain happineſs, is the ſincere wiſh of your former foe, but now real friend,

FREDERICK.

Frederick felt real concern, while he wrote this epiſtle, which was more than miſs Williams did, when ſhe read it; he had only anticipated her wiſhes, and as ſhe did not intend to follow his advice, ſhe did not give herſelf or him the trouble of ſending any anſwer.

He then ſet about ſelling his own, and purchaſing Wilton's commiſſion, in both which tranſactions, he was ſo fortunate, as to meet with very little difficulty, and laſtly he paid Kemp the money which had been the foundation of his preſent ſucceſs.

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His love for Louiſa, made him careful of her reputation; he knew the world wou'd not ſee her generoſity in the light he did; he therefore choſe to give captain Johnſon the honour of having aſſiſted him, and as he repos'd an intire confidence in him, wrote to him an account of the whole tranſaction.

Louiſa waited with impatience to ſee the whole affair finiſh'd, and to congratulate him, on what was her own merit: yet far from the wiſh of doing it to gratify her own pride, ſhe eſteem'd Frederick, and ſhe only wiſh'd to fix his eſteem for her.

He did not forget her laſt words, and as ſoon as he cou'd juſtly ſtile himſelf captain, he waited on her, and had no cauſe to retract one of thoſe pleaſing ideas he had entertain'd: two or three receptions of this kind wou'd have made him quite forget the diſtinction between them, and have taught him to overcome his diffidence and pride, and boldly declare himſelf her lover: but Louiſa's indiſcreet benevolence made him again heſitate.

One evening being engag'd in play, he obſerv'd her anxiouſly watching the fate of a young gentleman, who ventur'd deeply, and conſtantly loſt. Louiſa cou'd no longer forbear aſſiſting him, and telling him ſhe'd be a ſharer in his fortune, encourag'd him to play again, and ſent him at laſt from the table, a very conſiderable winner, altho' ſhe loſt pretty deeply by the bargain.

This affected Frederick very much; he's almoſt a ſtranger to her, thought he, and it can be only her temper which induc'd her, why then ſhou'd I flatter myſelf, with thinking it was any degree of

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particular regard, that pleaded in my favour? no 'twas only to gratify her own generous diſpoſition, and when that can be done, it is equal to her who is the object; yet ſtill I muſt love her. She is certainly a moſt worthy creature, and her follies are only the effect of youth and affluence; cou'd I once fix her attention enough to dare to point them to her, I doubt not that ſhe wou'd forſake them. I ſtill may hope, ſhe has never yet hinted that I am diſagreeable to her, and time may make me more agreeable.

Hope is the food of lovers, and indeed it was Frederick's chief ſupport, for tho' miſs Edwards behav'd conſtantly with kindneſs enough to have overcome the diffidence of a more baſhful, tho' leſs ſenſible man, than himſelf, yet the kindneſs ſhe ſhew'd to others, made him at ſome times think it was exceſs of good-noture, and at others, he cou'd not help cenſuring her conduct.

Louiſa was far more happy; conſcious of her own innocence, pleas'd with Frederick's behaviour, ſhe was free from jealouſy or fear; ſhe did not know that he had forſook miſs Williams, but ſhe diſdain'd the common miſtake of her ſex, who think they ſhew their love, by expreſſing diſtruſt; her ſoul was above that littleneſs, and on occaſion ſhe wou'd have prov'd, that ſhe cou'd part with the lover tho' ſhe died for the man.

It was now the ſeaſon for miſs Edwards to ſhine, and at the ſame time ſubject herſelf to cenſure; Frederick, ſtill conſtant, was witneſs to many actions, which gave him pain, but one much more than any preceding: it was this;

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A competitorſhip had ariſen between two actors of eminence, each had their partizans, and as theſe prevail'd the oppoſite managers felt the effects of their prepoſſeſſion: Louiſa was very fond of theatrical entertainments, but avoided joining either party, till hearing a lady declare herſelf very loudly for one, and ſay, the other deſerv'd to be pelted off the ſtage. Louiſa began thus; 'Madam, I muſt ſay, I think 'you very unreaſonable; one man may have a great 'ſhare of merit, and may not another have equal? 'but ſuppoſe he has not, his endeavours to pleaſe, 'may be as great, or greater than the other's, and 'tho' he may not deſerve ſo much applauſe, at leaſt 'he deſerves our pity. People who give up every o-'ther claim of reputation to pleaſe the publick, ſhou'd 'never be withheld that ſhare they do merit; and tho' 'he may not be equal in the ſame character, he may 'excel in a different one. 'Yes, Madam, replied 'the other, that will be ſeen at their benefits, which 'both are of the ſame night, one will have peers in 'his upper gallery, while the other will play to empty 'boxes.' 'Not if I have any influence, return'd 'Louiſa, I'll take care to fill his boxes, at leaſt.' She was as good as her word, and ſent the next day for a great number of tickets, went herſelf to all her acquaintance, and inſiſted on their taking them, gave a great number away, and over and above the value of the tickets which ſhe juſtly remitted, ſent him twenty guineas for her own.

This made a great noiſe amongſt the politely cenſorious; one ſaid ſhe was in love with him, another, that ſhe frequently admitted him to viſit her; her generoſity was exaggerated; in one ſet of company, ſhe had preſented him with a pair of diamond ſhoe buckles, in another with the cluſter of brilliants he wore in his cap, here ſhe had ſent him a piece of velvet

velvet and ermine for his robe, and there, ſhe work'd herſelf the ruffles he wore on his benefit night.

Frederick was not the laſt to hear theſe reports, which almoſt robb'd him of his patience. 'Heavens, cried he, is it poſſible for a woman to be ſo 'indiſcreet! were ſhe a fool, was ſhe really 'ill inclin'd, it would be no more than might 'be expected; but ſhe has the fineſt under-'ſtanding I ever knew a woman poſſeſs; her edu-'cation has been liberal beyond cuſtom, ſhe has im-'prov'd her mind, by ſtudying the beſt authors, ſhe 'is punctual in the obſervance of her religious du-'ties, and this, not from habit, but from principle 'and conviction; ſhe is generous, friendly, ſin-'cere, charitable and juſt, and I believe ſtrictly 'virtuous, yet with all theſe fine qualities has no 'regard to what ought to be of the utmoſt value 'to her, her reputation. Surely ſhe does not think 'ſhe is ſatisfied with the knowledge of her own in-'tegrity, and cares no farther; ſhe has no friend 'who dares be bold enough, or is ſincere enough to 'tell her her faults. I will be that friend, my love 'for her is a ſufficient excuſe; ſhe may perhaps re-'ſent my freedom, but if ſhe does, it can't give me 'more pain than her follies do; if ſhe has obſerv'd 'my attachment, if ſhe has any degree of kindneſs 'for me, ſhe will forgive me, if ſhe has not, I 'then ſhall know the worſt; and if ſhe loves me, 'ſhe muſt forſake her errors ere I cou'd think of 'wedding her, wou'd ſhe even condeſcend to be 'mine: cou'd I be happy with a woman whoſe 'daily freedoms ſubject her to ſcandal? cou'd I 'bear to have my wife's character call'd in queſtion? 'no, were I but a private centinel and ſhe a queen, 'I wou'd not marry her on thoſe terms. The wife

'of

'of Frederick, no more than the wife of Cæſar, 'ought not to be ſuſpected.'

Full of theſe thoughts, he determined to riſk all hopes to ſave Louiſa from the brink on which her reputation totter'd; he waited on her, but found company with her, which made it impoſſible for him to ſpeak on the buſineſs which brought him thither.

Among thoſe he found there, was the ſon of a peer, who by the courteſy of Great Britain, was already ſtiled lord F----, who had for ſome time time, pretended to Louiſa; he was young, vain and pert, and ſo fond of hereditary honour, and grandeur of birth, that if once he began to talk of it, nobody elſe cou'd do any thing but liſten; he knew Frederick's obſcurity, and willing to ſhine at his expence, began the darling topic.

Frederick did not think proper to interrupt him, till he declared that merit conſiſted ſolely in birth: 'Yes, ſir, replies Frederick, I think Dr. Young 'gives the firſt place in folly to quality, and by a 'couple of lines, proves how valuable your prero-'gative is.'

Let high birth triumph! what can be more great?
Nothing ------ but merit in a low eſtate.

'I think, my lord, ſaid Louiſa, captain Frede-'rick has brought the good doctor very a propos to 'the reſcue of poor humble merit, which your lord-'ſhip had juſt condemn'd.' Madam, replied he, 'I am certain if this gentleman had birth to boaſt 'of he wou'd not have thought of merit.' 'Tis 'lucky for you, my lord, returned Frederick, that

'you can boaſt of your birth, or I fear you wou'd 'have little to be vain of; for ſince you ſet ſo great 'a value on what is merely accidental, I think it 'plainly indicates, that no other fame is worth 'your care.' Can any be more ſo? replied his lord-'ſhip, are not birth and noble alliances of ineſti-'mable value? they are not to be purchas'd; and 'let me tell you, ſir, 'tis theſe which ſet us 'above the vulgar, and make our merit more valu-'able than theirs.' 'Well, my lord, replied Frede-'rick, you are very happy in your way of thinking, 'and indeed I don't envy you. I'd rather be the 'ſon of a chimney-ſweeper, and have merit enough 'to gain the eſteem of the world, than be able to 'deduce my pedigree from all the peers ſince the cre-'ation, and only be conſidered the hundredth tranſ-'mitter of a fooliſh face.'

Frederick certainly fail'd here in his uſual politeneſs, but the anxiety he was under, my lord's ſtupid aſſertions, his knowledge of his pretenſions to Louiſa, and ſome attention which he thought ſhe paid to his diſcourſe, muſt plead his excuſe.

Louiſa ſaw the young peer's colour riſe, and willing to give the preference to Frederick, ſaid, 'I think, 'Mr. Frederick, you are much in the right, tho' 'merit alone can have no ſeat in the houſe of peers, 'yet if the welfare of the nation depended ſolely on 'either, I fancy birth wou'd have little to do, and 'merit wou'd gain what it ſo much deſerves, the 'preference of title.'

This was too plain for his lordſhip to miſtake, and too much for him to bear, ſo riſing, he bow'd to Louiſa, ſaying, 'I'm not ſo unpolite as to diſ-'pute with a lady, and ſhall defer doing it with that gen-

'gentleman, till a fitter time,' then walking out of the room with an air of over-ſtrain'd grandeur, ſtep'd into his chariot and drove home.

Frederick's thoughts were too much engag'd to dwell on his behaviour; he wou'd willingly have outſtaid all the company, that he might have had an opportunity of eaſing his mind of that burthen with which it labour'd; but finding a party at cards was ſettled, he took his leave, fearing if he ſtaid, it wou'd be only to give himſelf more pain, as Louiſa's fondneſs for that dear deſtructive diverſion was ſuch, as frequently made him unwillingly obſerve her imprudence.

He went home with a heavy heart, and ſat down to conſider ſeriouſly Louiſa's behaviour ſince he had firſt had the honour of being acquainted with her. Her particular kindneſs to him, her generoſity, the preference ſhe had juſt now ſhewn, her almoſt general coquetry, her fondneſs for play, and the ſervices he had ſeen her do gentlemen in it, her late particularity to the player, combated with each other, and caus'd a tumult in Frederick's breaſt, which none but a lover, and a doubtful one, can form any idea of; but if my readers have never been in love, I'll favour them with a piece of intelligence, which may be hereafter ſerviceable to them, as it will keep them in countenance, i. e. however blameworthy the conduct of a beloved object may appear, yet after their railing fit is over, the real and fancied perfections which firſt intangled, and ſince have ſecur'd their hearts, will ſhine with redoubled brightneſs, and they will find, that the oppoſitions reality or imagination has rais'd againſt the reaſonableneſs of their paſſion, are but new arts of the blind god, to make them more ſecurely his.

This was the caſe with Frederick, for after all his wiſe reaſoning, he found Louiſa was the empreſs of his ſoul, and the only woman worthy to be ſo; he was in the midſt of a delightful reverie, of his ſucceſs, putting him on an equality with her, and her riſing above thoſe little errors, which now made her leſs than a goddeſs, tho' ſhe was ſtill more than a woman, her accepting and rewarding his long and faithful ſervices, and all the fairy-land ſchemes, of which lovers brains are ever ſo fertile, when the following billet was deliver'd to him.

Sir,

YOUR behaviour this night, has been ſuch, as no gentleman ought to uſe, or tamely put up. I am willing to think you have ſo good a right to that title, as to be ready to give that ſatisfaction, my injur'd honour demands. If you are, you will not fail meeting me to-morrow, by eight o'clock, in Hyde-park, provided with a ſword and piſtols, as I ſhall leave the choice of weapons to be decided when we meet.

F-------.

Unexpectedly as this invitation came, Frederick was not at all at a loſs how he ſhould anſwer it; he had utterly forgot all captain Johnſon's arguments againſt duelling, and was going to anſwer his challenge, with all the fire which love, youth, and reſentment combin'd, cou'd inſpire. He took the pen in his hand, when taking up a book to write upon, a trifling curioſity, conſidering how his thoughts were engag'd, led him to open it: It was Savage's life, and his eye immediately fell on theſe very pathetic lines.

Far

Far be the guilt of home-ſhed blood from all
On whom, unſought, embroiling dangers fall.
Still the pale dead revives and lives to me,
To me, thro' pity's eye, condemn'd to ſee.
Remembrance veils his rage, but ſwells his fate,
Griev'd I forgive, and am grown cool too late.
Young and unthoughtful then, who knows one day,
What rip'ning virtues might have made their way?
He might one day, his country's friend have prov'd,
Been gen'rous, happy, candid and belov'd;
He might have ſav'd ſome worth now doom'd to fall,
And I perchance in him have murder'd all.

The pen dropt from his fingers; he ſtarted, paused, at laſt, 'And ſhall I bring this terrible 'compunction on myſelf? No, rather let me meet 'the cenſures of the raſh, the ill-judging world, 'than the juſt rebukes of the Deity within.----But 'then, can I bear the imputation of cowardice? 'Ah! what's that, compared to continual remorſe, 'for ſuch muſt ſure be his, who, in defiance of 'the laws of nature and of kingdoms, is the volun-'tary cauſe of another's death. 'Tis true, he has 'challenged me, and according to the notions of 'the men of ſpirit, I cannot refuſe; but why ſhould 'I accept it? I bear him no real enmity; I ſurely 'may prevent it; he is the only hopes of an ancient 'family; to the head of that, will I apply; if, 'afterwards he ſeeks his death, ſince in duels the 'chance is commonly equal, I ſhall have this ſa-'tisfaction, that I endeavoured to avoid ſhedding 'his blood.'

After a little more reflection, and a few debates between conſcience and honour, the former prevailed, and he wrote the following:

To the right honourable the earl of F----.

SIR,

I Juſt now received the incloſed from lord F-----, the occaſion of which is ſo very trifling, that I can't in conſcience conſent to accept his invitation, therefore put it in your lordſhip's power to prevent the conſequences which may be expected, if his deſires are complied with. I depend on your lordſhip's juſtice, to clear me from timidity in this ſtep, as I aſſure you 'tis no regard to my own ſafety, but to your ſon's, your's, and your whole family's happineſs, that has prompted me to give you this intelligence; which, if you reject, and think the cauſe ſufficient to excuſe the conſequences, I am ready to meet lord F----- when he pleaſes. I am, my lord,

Your lordſhip's &c. &c.

FREDERICK.

The earl of F----- was really a ſenſible, well diſpos'd man, and free from that vanity with which his ſon abounded, and which he had often taken notice of, and rebuked him for. He was pleaſed with Frederick's behaviour, but puzzled how to act in ſo critical a point; at laſt he determin'd to go out of town the next morning, and inſiſted on his ſon's attending him. The young gentleman wou'd fain have excus'd himſelf, but all he cou'd urge was to no purpoſe, and at ſix, his father made him enter his poſt chaiſe, and drove directly to his country ſeat, which is about thirty miles from London. As ſoon as they arrived there, 'I know, ſaid he, the 'cauſe of your unwillingneſs to come hither; that

'letter

'letter has informed me, and when you have 'ſeen how generous an adverſary you had, pray in-'form me, why were you ſo eager to loſe your 'own life, or draw a blot on a family hitherto un-'ſtain'd?' The young peer was at firſt at a loſs for an anſwer, at laſt told his father, 'That the 'affronts Frederick had given him in Louiſa's pre-'ſence, and the favour ſhe ſhewed that baſe pre-'tender, were ſuch, as no man of the leaſt ſpirit 'could bear, that he was certain his lordſhip would 'be aſham'd to own a ſon, who wou'd tamely ſit 'down with ſuch uſage.' The earl deſired an explanation, which, when his ſon had given him, 'How very ſimple are you, cried he, to think all 'this worth your notice! 'tis very natural for a man 'who knows not from whom he derives his birth, to 'endeavour to put all ſtations on a level; he rather 'deſerves your pity than your reſentment; and as 'to miſs Edwards, ſhe only treads in the ſame 'ſteps, which all the women before her have done; 'believe me, a girl of her ſpirit, thinks Frederick 'of no farther conſequence, than as ſhe can divert 'herſelf with playing him off againſt her more wor-'thy admirers. I ſhould never ſuſpect that a wo-'man of her ſenſe would liſten to a man, who is 'indebted merely to chance for the little advantages 'he has, in preference to the honours we have of-'fer'd her by our alliance.

Many more were the arguments the peer uſed, to diſſuade his ſon from his purpoſe, and the young gentleman ſeem'd to comply ſo far with his father's intreaties and commands, that they returned to London, but with as much rancour in his heart, as when he had left it. He was reſolved to fight with Frederick, and this for a two-fold cauſe; firſt, as he thought him his happy rival, and ſecondly, as

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he thought a well-fought duel, the finiſhing of a gentleman's character.

Chance flung our hero in his way, the day after he came to town, and addreſſing him with a haughty air, 'I'm much oblig'd to you, Sir, for the care 'you took to preſerve me from danger; tho' I'm apt 'to think, ſpite of your flouriſhes, that your own 'ſafety was thought on; nay, perhaps miſs Edwards 'cou'd not ſpare you, and 'twou'd have been unkind 'to have riſk'd your life, if it was dear to her.' 'How, Sir, replied Frederick, is it thus you inter-'pret my kindneſs? I find, indeed, you were not 'worth my care; but be cautious how you ſpeak 'of miſs Edwards, leſt you find me more eaſily in-'rag'd than you may imagine.' 'Oh, Sir, return'd 'his lordſhip, I find you are prudent as you're gene-'rous, and wou'd have every body as blind as you are, 'but miſs Edwards may find time to repent of her fol-'ly, in giving any encouragement to ſuch a wretch as 'thou art.' Frederick's indignation here blaz'd out, the indignities thrown on himſelf, the aſperſion levelled at Louiſa, were not to be ſupported. 'Wretch! 'as you are pleaſed in the exceſs of your politeneſs to 'call me, know, that I'll not bear an affront, from any 'man breathing; I have once put it in your power 'to eſcape the effects of your own temerity, but take 'the conſequences; name your time, place and 'weapons, and I'll not be a moment behind you,' Lord F---- gladly catched at the juſt rage he had kindled, the next morning was appointed, and all the neceſſary preliminaries were adjuſted.

The morning came, and the antagoniſts met, both with with a gloomy aſpect; but little time was ſpent in words; they drew, and after doing ſome credit to their fencing maſters, Frederick received

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a wound, which, though no very ſlight one, did not prevent his returning the compliment, and diſarming his rival. There is a very great diſtinction to be made between true and falſe courage, which would have been exemplified by lord F-----'s behaviour, had he fought with any leſs generous than our hero. Tho' he had ſought this hazard, he would have been mean enough to have begged his life, had not Frederick immediately raiſed him, ſaying, 'I hope 'from this time your lordſhip will be more 'cautious, how you juſtly irritate a man who 'does not want ſpirit, but yet would gladly 'avoid the guilt of bloodſhed: I deſire no farther 'reparation, take, Sir, your life, and I return 'your ſword; may the one be long and happy, and 'the other never drawn, except in the common 'cauſe of liberty.'

Lord F----- look'd confus'd; he was aſhamed to be thus conquered; and not having an equal generoſity of temper, was unable to conſider Frederick's behaviour in the light it deſerved. Frederick ſaw and pitied his confuſion; he perceived his lordſhip was pretty much hurt, and he began to grow faint himſelf; he therefore gave the ſignal to their ſervants, who came up, and both were conducted to their reſpective homes, where the ſurgeon's aſſiſtance was found very neceſſary, nor did either of them appear abroad till ten or twelve days after this rencounter.

Both of them were too well known for it to remain a ſecret, and the cauſe of it was variouſly reported; but moſt accounts agreed, that it was for Louiſa they had fought. She ſoon heard of it, and the concern ſhe felt for Frederick, was a convincing proof that he was particularly dear to her: regardleſs of the cenſure of the town, ſhe

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ſent every day to know how he did, and as ſoon as he went abroad, deſired to ſee him.

This confinement gave Frederick more time than was agreeable, to reflect on Louiſa's behaviour, and as thoſe friends who viſited him, did not fail to repeat what was ſaid on the late quarrel, particularly the ſhare ſhe was ſuppoſed to have in it, he was more reſolute than ever, to declare his ſentiments with freedom to her.

As ſoon as the ſurgeon gave him leave to go abroad, he waited on Louiſa, and to his great ſatisfaction, found her alone. She addreſſed him with an air particularly tender, and expreſſed much pleaſure at his recovery, as well as ſorrow for the accident. Frederick politely thank'd her, and after ſome heſitation, told her, 'That he 'did not feel half ſo much pain from his wound, 'as from the malicious reports which had pre-'vailed, which as they glanced at her, cou'd not 'fail of giving him the utmoſt uneaſineſs.' Louiſa, who had heard none of theſe ſtories, deſired to know what he meant? 'Are you then igno-'rant of them, madam? I am ſorry I muſt in-'form you, but as I aſſure you, I have the ut-'moſt reſpect for you, I hope you will forgive 'my freedom, when I beg leave to point out 'ſome part of your conduct, which has given 'a licence to the cenſorious to take liberties with 'your character, which I am ſure you do not 'deſerve." Louiſa was ſurpriſed at this preface, but being at a loſs for an anſwer remained ſilent, when Frederick went on; 'You 'are accuſed, madam, of being the cauſe of 'the quarrel between lord F---- and me, of 'which you are perfectly innocent; but (here

'he

'he paus'd, fearing to give offence) I muſt ſay, 'the world would never have dared to have ſaid this, had your caution always equalled your virtue; a young lady, particulary, an agreeable, and an independant one, muſt not ſtudy, only to be agreeable; 'tis not enough to be ſtrictly virtuous, but ſhe muſt be ſtrictly prudent too, or ſhe will not eſcape the cenſures of the free of one ſex, and the envious of the other.

Louiſa quite aſtoniſh'd at this diſcourſe, aſk'd him what part of her conduct encouraged this rudeneſs? 'Dear madam, replied he, You miſtake me, and 'interpret that rudeneſs, which is the exceſs of 'friendſhip; your many fine qualities made me 'eſteem you, before your generoſity excited my 'gratitude; I never had the preſumption to hope 'a return, tho' I have long ſought to deſerve it; 'think then, madam, if I muſt not be grieved to 'hear the cenſures of the world, and to have been 'witneſs to the little indiſcretions which have cauſed 'them? I will not tell you what I have undergone 'on that account, for I don't want to make a merit of my love; but I muſt beg of you, by every 'conſideration that is dear to you, to prevent that malice by an alteration of your conduct. You will always attract admiration, without practiſing the little 'arts of coquetry to gain it. Shine then with your 'own native luſtre; diſmiſs that train, who while 'they make your rivals envy you, fling ſtains on a 'reputation which ought to be unſullied. Forſake 'that deſtructive folly, gaming, for 'tis to that 'you owe many a weary thought; the miſeries that 'occaſions are too numerous to be repeated, and 'the misfortunes it will inevitably draw upon you, 'are ſuch as I tremble but to think of.'

Fre-

Frederick had never before dared ſeriouſly to tell Louiſa he loved her, and it may be reckoned a moot point, whether he cou'd have choſe a better or a worſe time, to have made ſo ſtrangely a complicated declaration. 'Tis certain that women, particularly the gayer ſort, are too apt to like the love, tho' they diſlike the lover, and it is as certain, that they are ſo averſe to hearing their faults told, that they never believe they have any, and of courſe diſlike the teller, therefore as one might palliate the other, our hero's ſituation might be more favourable than might have been expected.

Louiſa, who had never before met with any thing but polite flattery from the men, was ſo much moved by Frederick's diſcourſe, that although he was now ſilent, ſhe cou'd make no anſwer, but by her looks plainly indicated, that this was the moſt diſpleaſing diſcourſe ſhe had ever known Frederick attempt. He entertained hopes from her ſilence, and was going to proceed, when ſhe ſtarted up, and walked to and fro with an air which ſhewed the agitation within, then turning to him, 'I did not expect, I did not think, Mr. Frederick;' here ſhe burſt into a violent fit of tears, which affected poor Frederick ſo much, that he wou'd almoſt have given an eye, to have unſaid all he had ſaid, rather than have ſeen her ſo much grieved. He endeavoured to ſooth her, and in half-uttered ſentences, which diſcovered his fear, tried to calm her diſturbed ſpirits, which only added force to her pride, and aſſiſted her to ſoar above him. 'Am not I free? am 'not I miſtreſs of my own actions? interrogated 'ſhe.' You are ſo, madam, you deſerve to be ſo, but as that very freedom may be the means of betraying you into errors, forgive me, if my eſteem my gratitude, my love, prompt me to ſhew you how they are be avoided. 'No, Sir, returned Louiſa, with

'with the moſt haughty air, the man who dares
'to arraign my conduct, ſhall find I've reſolution
'equal to that imprudence he is pleaſed to charge
'me with. It will be time enough, if ever I am
'that miſerable thing, a wife, to be ſubjected to
'the tyranny of man. I'm free at preſent, and as
'a proof of that aſſertion, tell you, that my doors
'are now open; but for the future, you will al-
'ways find them ſhut. Since my indiſcretion gives
'you pain, I deſire you will be witneſs to no more
'of it. Amongſt all my indiſcretions, I leaſt repent
'of that to you, ſince it has been ſo far ſerviceable
'as to let me ſee what a uſurper you are. But ſince
'we have both ſo much reaſon to be diſſatisfied, I
'deſire we may never meet again.'

Poor Frederick was now in a moſt pitiable ſituation: he had never ſeen Louiſa's face before deformed with a frown; rage, and the train of diſagreeable paſſions he imagined were ſtrangers to her breaſt: unprepared to meet her anger, he was quite at a loſs how to behave, but ſeeing ſhe intended to quit the room, he flung himſelf at her feet, and in the moſt paſſionate manner proteſted his love, gratitude and eſteem; his regard to her welfare, excluſive of his own happineſs; but it was all loſt, ſhe burſt from him, repeating with great indignation, ungrateful wretch! diſſembler! and flung out of the room, leaving her adorer to repent at leiſure of his folly in thinking a woman was to be ſubdued by reaſon. After waiting ſome time, and finding ſhe did not return, he ordered his chair, and went home with a heavy heart.

Louiſa's ſituation was not leſs irkſome than her lover's: pride had hitherto ſupported her, but that ſoon ſunk; for the woman who truly loves, will

find that, or indeed any other argument, of very little force: Frederick appeared more amiable than ever; his ſincerity became an addition to his perfections, and ſhe accuſed herſelf more freely than he had done; her coquetry appeared deteſtable, her extravagance unpardonable, and had a pack of cards or the dice-box come in her way, ſhe wou'd have ſacrificed them to her reſentment: her late outrageous behaviour gave her much more pain in reflection than it did in action, as ſhe feared it might eraſe every favourable idea Frederick entertained of her: how did ſhe repent of her reproaches? of her declaration that ſhe wou'd ſee him no more? when now ſhe wou'd with pleaſure have kneelingly implored his pardon. Nothing but a dependance on his goodneſs kept her from deſpair, and with that ſlender hope did Louiſa paſs the moſt anxious hours ſhe ever knew.

Frederick was unprovided with a friendly genius to inform him of Louiſa's thoughts; he beheld her only as ſhe had laſt appeared to him, when pride, rage, diſdain ſat on every feature, and as his crime was beyond parallel, he did not venture to flatter himſelf with the hopes of forgiveneſs. How did he regret his ſincerity? yet, was it not the effects of love? but then, how dear it had coſt him! then did he wiſh he had fell by lord F----'s hand; there wou'd have been an end to all his woes, and he wou'd have died pitied and lamented by her he lov'd.

That young nobleman was now perfectly recover'd, and tho' he was not of that turn of temper to become a friend to the man who he found wou'd fight, yet he had his reaſons for huſhing up the affair, and avoided mentioning it, or Frederick.

While

While Frederick was combating with his hard fate, he received a command to join his regiment, in order to embark immediately for Flanders. The ambition with which his breaſt was fraught, wou'd at another time, have made this command the moſt agreeable one he cou'd have receiv'd; but now 'twas terrible, 'twas to leave Louiſa, and that in the very worſt juncture his ill ſtars cou'd have choſen to ſeparate him from her: chance, while he continued in London, might have ſtood his friend, but now, all hope vaniſhed. The misfortune was unavoidable, and ſummoning all his reſolution, philoſophy and courage, he prepared to ſeek for a glorious death or victory. But before he left England, he reſolved to bid an adieu to Louiſa; in perſon, he dar'd not, therefore did it in the following epiſtle.

Madam,

AFTER our late unhappy interview, I know I am highly preſumptuous, in daring thus to addreſs you; but as I ſhall in a few hours leave this kingdom, perhaps for ever, I hope I ſhall be excuſable for taking my final leave of my generous benefactreſs, the perſon deareſt to me, and for whom, while life remains, I ſhall have the utmoſt eſteem, It will be difficult to perſuade you that nothing but exceſs of tenderneſs could have made me behave in the manner I unfortunately did, but as you cannot now ſuſpect me of deſign, I hope you will be charitable enough to believe me. Tho' I dare not hope for your future favour, yet I muſt beg of you in a recollecting hour, to think of what I then urg'd; for I muſt ſtill be ſo ſincere as to recommend an alteration of your conduct to you. Your piety is exemplary, your charity unparallelled, and your uni-

verſal benevolence ſuch as can only flow from the moſt generous heart; your fine underſtanding is improved by every advantage education can give; and ſhall all theſe fine qualities be only uſed to make you more glaring in the too gay circle? and to make the freedoms of your behaviour more conſpicuous and blameable? Oh! madam, think in time; you now have it in your power to reſcue your reputation from thoſe barbarians who will deſtroy it. Believe me, 'tis not enough for a woman to be ſtrictly virtuous, ſhe muſt in all her words and actions appear ſo, if ſhe wou'd eſcape cenſure. Let not your love for play prevail over your reaſon; for tho' it is reckoned only a polite diverſion, yet it is, in effect, a moſt ſcandalous vice. You muſt either be diſhoneſt in your play, yourſelf, or be dup'd by thoſe you play with, and if it is only laviſhing your money, that, to a perſon of your ſenſe, is a ſufficient argument againſt it. In time it will hurt your eſtate, and can you bear to think of unpaid tradeſmen, or unrelieved diſtreſſed? yet theſe, and worſe muſt be the conſequence. The liberties it encourages bold men to take, may at laſt exceed the bounds of prudence, nor may you be able to repulſe them as they deſerve. You were intended by heaven to make ſome worthy man ſupremely bleſt. Oh do not croſs its gracious purpoſes, and make yourſelf miſerable! Reflect I beg of you, on theſe hints, and I hope you will reap thoſe advantages I propoſed, (which is all I now dare hope) by that change in your manners, which is all that is wanting to make you the moſt perfect of women. May happineſs await you, and may you never feel that torture which now racks the breaſt of, Madam,

Your moſt ſincere,

grateful and faithful,

tho' unhappy admirer,

FREDERICK.

Louiſa, who had no notion of Frederick's departure, found her pride revive a little, when ſhe received his letter, as ſhe ſuppoſed it filled with nothing but conceſſions, begging forgiveneſs, permiſſion to wait on her, and all the ſtring of compliments uſed by offending lovers ſince the creation; what then were her emotions, when ſhe read the dreadful letter!

——— *For ever! gone for ever!*
Oh who can bear to be a wretch for ever!

Words cou'd not find their way, down ſhe ſunk, unable to ſupport the weight of her woe: her ſcreams and tears at laſt made way, and clear'd a paſſage for her words; but theſe were at firſt too incoherent to bear repetition. Had Frederick been witneſs to this ſcene, he might have ſated his revenge for all the pangs her foibles and her unkindneſs had coſt him. Happy for his tender diſpoſition that he was ſaved from this exceſs of killing kindneſs. His was ſingle ſorrow, he left England loaden only with the burden of his own diſappointed hopes, but poor Louiſa felt equal for him and for herſelf; ſhe mourned her folly, her pride, by which ſhe had loſt the moſt faithful lover; ſhe bemoaned the ſorrows ſhe had caus'd him, and all indeed with,

Alas he hears me not, nor heeds my ſorrow!

Her grief was not of that tranſitory nature, which evaporates in the firſt fit of tears: ſhe read his letter over and over, and every time it made a deeper impreſſion on her; how odious did her late exceſſes appear? ſhe ſtarted at the dangers he pointed to her, and ſhe ſeriouſly reſolved a reformation. 'Twas im-

poſſible to attempt it in London, but luckily, ſhe had a relation juſt married to a man of ſome conſequence in Scotland, who was going to reſide there, and who had earneſtly preſt Louiſa to favour them with her company thither to paſs the ſummer. She determined now to accept their invitation, which would prevent the chatterers ſeeking the cauſe of her leaving London, and both Mr. Murray and his wife, were the very fitteſt perſons in the world to aid her in her reformation-ſcheme. He was a man of extreme good ſenſe, which he had convinced the world of, by the regular goodneſs of his life. Mrs. Murray had charm'd him, more by a parity of diſpoſition than by her beauty or fortune; and add to this, that their fortune was ſuch as enabled 'em to live perfectly genteel, without profuſion, and their behaviour was both polite and ſincere.

Louiſa put on as chearful a face in public as ſhe could; but as Mr. Murray was preparing to leave London, and ſhe had declar'd to all her acquaintance her intention of going to Scotland with her couſin, her neceſſary preparations for her journey, were an excuſe for her not frequenting the public diverſions as uſual; yet ſpite of her precaution, there were ſome who did not ſcruple to ſay, 'twas Frederick's abſence, which cauſed her ſudden departure.

Before ſhe left London, the earl of F----- and his ſon waited on her, to renew their propoſals; ſhe very politely thank'd his lordſhip for the honour he intended her by his alliance, but aſſur'd him ſhe never cou'd accept it, therefore begg'd he wou'd never think of it, or propoſe it more. The peer finding her reſolute, took his leave to offer his ſon to one who might have a greater inclination for a title than Louiſa had.

Oh love, how great is thy power over thy votaries! and when founded on reaſon, how praiſe-worthy! Louiſa, who had been deaf to every argument, blind to every hazard, was by thee made ſenſible of her errors, and enabled to forſake them. Never did ſhe long more earneſtly for an approaching maſquerade than ſhe did for the retirement ſhe was going to.

At laſt the wiſhed-for day came: ſhe had ſettled all her affairs, taken leave of all her acquaintance, and ſet out for Scotland with the worthy pair, with great ſatisfaction; and now being ſafely arriv'd there, and having chang'd folly, gaiety, coquetry and gaming, for wiſdom, prudence, and innocent recreation, ſuch as nature bounteouſly enables the country to give, and ſevereſt virtue allows, we ſhall leave her to think of love in private, and reform in public, in order to attend our hero.

He embark'd for Flanders with the troops, and joined the army, without meeting with any thing worthy our notice. His love was ſtill predominant, and Louiſa's empire remain'd unſhaken; but as he was aſham'd to appear diſhearten'd, he put the beſt face he cou'd on the matter, but indeed it was only hiding behind his face: for altho' he was conſtantly engag'd either on duty, or on parties with his brother officers, Louiſa frequently came athwart him in his gayeſt moments: nor did it eſcape the notice of his more obſerving companions. Among theſe was a gentleman, with whom he had a ſlight acquaintance in England, but which had been much improved ſince his coming abroad, who took particular notice of Frederick's thoughtful fits; one day, 'Frederick, ſaid he, I'll lay my life you are in love; ſome girl has hold of your heart, and has given you a deep-

er

er wound, than you expect a cannon ball will do; come confeſs, is it not ſo? have you not left your heart in England?' 'Sir, replied Frederick, I wonder you ſhou'd think ſo, or ſuppoſe there is any body in England, for whom I have a particular eſteem, is there any harm in it? Lovers make the beſt ſoldiers, and ſoldiers the beſt lovers, ſo that as this is my firſt campaign, I think if I am in love, ſo much the better, as I may the better ſerve my king.' 'Nay, replied captain Smith, if you only love enough to make you brave, very well, but if enough to make you melancholy, you're to blame, for, believe me, there is not a woman in the world worth one ſigh.' 'No, ſir! replied Frederick, there are many women 'who are deſerving the utmoſt regard, and for whom 'exceſs of grief may be excuſable.' 'Ay, ay, cri-'ed Smith, you're gone, but I hope not too deep. 'I thought once as you do, but am convinced at laſt, 'that all their appearance of virtue, tenderneſs, truth, '&c. is a cheat.' 'You are very raſh I think, Sir, 'anſwer'd Frederick.' Not more ſo than I have 'reaſon; come you're a young fellow, and don't 'know 'em, I'll tell you my own hiſtory, which I 'think will be a ſufficient antidote againſt the poiſon 'of love. You are to know, that I being a young-'er brother, was cut off, not with a ſhilling, but 'a commiſſion, an enſigncy; and tho' I cou'd ſcarce 'live on my income, I muſt needs take it in my head 'to fall in love, and marry, as if I cou'd not be ſuffi-'ciently wretched without that. Well, my Helen 'was handſome, and I thought virtuous, the daughter 'of a country gentleman, with whom I became ac-'quainted while I was in quarters. The old man 'treated me civilly, and his daughter kindly, and I 'being a man of ſpirit and honour, ran away with 'her, to reward him, and married her to pleaſe 'her, and puniſh myſelf. This was a reaſon for

'him

'him to be very angry, and refuſe giving her a ſhil-
'ling; 'tis true, neither of us thought of that before
'hand, ſo we did not lament. I brought my princ-
'eſs to London, and placed her in a genteel lodg-
'ing, and as I really lov'd her moſt heartily, I re-
'ſolv'd to be a very good huſband, and indeed I was
'ſo, and for three years we knew no interruption to
'our mutual happineſs, but two additions to it,
'namely two fine boys; then came our troubles, I
'was commanded to the Weſt-Indies. How cou'd
'I take my family thither? Yet how part from
'them? and how provide for their ſafety and ſup-
'port, during my abſence? I had a very good friend,
'one Mr. Beaumont, a man of great fortune, and
'in this critical juncture, what does he, but kindly of-
'fers his houſe to my wife and children, while I was
'abroad. He was a ſingle man, and as he had late-
'ly parted from his miſtreſs, (who by the way, was
'his half ſiſter, tho he did not know it till too late)
'my wife wou'd be of great ſervice in managing his
'his family. Overcome by his goodneſs, I conſent-
'ed, and after taking a melancholy leave of my
'dear wife, and my poor children, I embark'd,
'happy ſo far, that they wou'd be ſafe in the protec-
'tion of ſo worthy a man. We had a very quick
'paſſage, and as ſoon as I arrived, I wrote a letter
'to her, full of tenderneſs, and bade her be ſure to be
'grateful to our good benefactor. After all the fa-
'tigues of war in that out of the way corner of the
'world, and all the killing pangs of ſeparation from
'her I lov'd, I return'd to England, conſoling my-
'ſelf with thinking, the joys of meeting, pay the
'pangs of abſence, elſe who cou'd bear it? then
'wou'd I repeat,'

When

When thy lov'd form ſhall bleſs my eyes again,
Then will I own I ought not to complain,
Since that bleſt hour is worth whole years of pain.

'Full of my romantic fancies, I landed in Eng-
'land, and flew to the ſpot where all my treaſure
'lay, but had no ſooner arrived in the village, than
'I was informed by an honeſt old ſervant of the
'family, who chanc'd to ſee me, that a croſs acci-
'dent had lately happened, which, he thought,
'made it neceſſary for me to delay my intended vi-
'ſit to my wife.'' For you muſt know, ſays he, that madam Smith was yeſterday unluckily brought to bed of a ſon. Now, as every body ſeems pretty well agreed, that it cannot be your's, for you know, Sir, continued he, you have been abſent coming three years, and as ſome folks don't ſcruple to ſay as how it is my maſter's, I think, all things conſidered, it would be better for you not to be ſeen at this time. I am now going to the next town to ſee after nurſe Careleſs, who is to take the child home; and then, when madam's time is up, you may pay her a viſit, and if you are wiſe enough to keep your own counſel, as you certainly are, why then, you know, it will be the ſame thing as if no ſuch untoward misfortune had happened.'

'Good heavens! what did I then feel! O Fre-
'derick, never marry, I can hardly now think of it
'without diſtraction. I turn'd my horſe, and without
'ſaying any thing to my intelligencer, gallop'd out
'of the village faſter than I had come in. I ſtopt at
'an inn, where I deſired a bed to be got ready for
'me, and while that was doing, my hoſt corrobo-
'rated the news I had heard. I retired and gave

'way

'way to my cruel reflections. Indignation took 'place of love, and I had certainly put an end to 'my life, but thro' tenderneſs to my poor children, 'and that prevented my challenging the baſe wretch 'who had diſhonoured me. But I cou'd not bear 'that my ſons ſhou'd be witneſſes of their mother's 'infamy, and that induc'd me to preſerve my life, 'in order to prevent it. I wrote Beaumont a letter, 'deſiring him to ſend my children, but that he was 'very welcome to keep the mother, for that I ſhou'd 'never think of her more. He complied with my 'requeſt, and I endeavoured to keep my word; 'thus far I have, that I have never wiſh'd to ſee 'her ſince, nor thought tenderly of her. And I own, 'I rejoic'd when ſhe had like to have ſuffer'd for her 'guilt, for he is dead, and tho' he left his whole for-'tune to her and her baſtards, his relations thought 'proper to litigate for it, and madam wou'd have 'been caſt, but for the care his executors took, 'who have eſtabliſh'd her in ſure poſſeſſion of it. 'Now, captain Frederick, don't you think I have 'reaſon for my quarrel with the ſex.'

Frederick replied, 'that indeed he had been un-'fortunate, but all women were not alike, and 'ne thought it unjuſt to cenſure all, for the miſbe-'haviour of ſome particular ones.' Captain Smith endeavoured to prove that all had the ſame inclinations, and that any man was a fool who thought them worth his concern, but Frederick was too juſt in his way of thinking to embrace ſo erroneous an opinion.

Tho' Frederick's paſſion was at times very troubleſome, it did not prevent his performing his duty, ſo as to gain the applauſe of his ſuperiors. I believe it wou'd not be diſagreeable were I to relate his

his actions in the field, but as this can't be done, without touching on points entirely hiſtorical, I ſhall leave his to be recorded amongſt thoſe of Britannia's other warlike ſons, by the pen of ſome more able writer; I ſhall only juſt obſerve, that colonel Johnſon, after acquiring great reputation, was taken off by a cannon ball, and that Frederick receiv'd a ſlight wound, in a battle which will always be remember'd to the honour of England.

He paid a juſt tribute to the memory of a man, who had certainly ſome good qualities, tho' they were in ſome meaſure obſcured by conſtitutional foibles. He had been a great friend to our hero, and he gratefully remember'd his kindneſs; he ſincerely lamented his death, and in a letter he wrote to captain Johnſon on the melancholy occaſion, teſtified in the moſt amiable manner, his real concern.

Winter putting a ſtop to hoſtile acts, the regiment Frederick belong'd to was order'd home. He no ſooner beheld the Britiſh ſhore, than Louiſa's image appeared to his imagination. How happy ſhou'd I be, thought he, were I in expectation of receiving a kind welcome from Louiſa! how would that o'er pay me, for all the fatigues of war, and the pain I've endur'd in abſence! But alas, I dare not hope; her ſituation, her merit and her pride, make ſo great a diſtinction between us, that I muſt think of nothing but diſdain; perhaps ere now ſhe has beſtowed her perſon and fortune on ſome more happy admirer; and the firſt news I ſhall hear, will be of her wedding, perhaps lord F----, or that ideot Kemp. Heavens! Can I ſupport that? Thus filled with fear, deſpair and jealouſy, did Frederick arrive in London, where he was no ſooner known to be, than he received the perſonal congratulations of many of his ac-

tance, particularly Mr. Vaughan and Mr. Vincent, the latter of which was now quite reſtored to that vivacity he had poſſeſſed ere he knew miſs Vanriel; nay, ſo far had he conquer'd the fainteſt remembrance of his former unhappy love, that during Frederick's abſence, he had married miſs Vaughan, and as honey-moon was ſcarce over, thought himſelf extremely happy, in the acquiſition of a wife, endowed with ſo many good qualities as that lady poſſeſſed. Frederick congratulated his friend on his marriage, and received a moſt affectionate invitation from him to pay the ſame compliment to his bride.

Frederick, though anxious to hear of Louiſa, yet was afraid to enquire after her, fearing he ſhould hear ſomething which would diſguſt him; he wiſh'd moſt earneſtly to ſee her, and as he was too ſenſible of her former attachment to publick places, he went frequently to all of them in hopes of meeting with her, but to no purpoſe; he went by her houſe in hopes of having a glimpſe of her, but in vain; and as her houſe was lent to an acquaintance, he had no notion while he ſaw people in it, that ſhe was not the inhabitant. Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, who were no ſtrangers to his love for Louiſa before he left England, were ſurpriſed that he never mentioned her, and Mrs. Vincent who wanted to know if he was a conſtant lover, took an opportunity of indulging her curioſity, in ſaying, 'I fancy, captain Fre-'derick, Flanders has produc'd a great change in 'your ſentiments.' 'How ſo, madam?' 'Why 'I thought you, before your departure, a fix'd ad-'mirer of miſs Edwards, yet I have never heard you 'ſo much as mention her ſince your return, I fear 'the air of the parts you have viſited, has cauſed an 'alteration in your diſpoſition.' 'Not at all, ma-

'dam, (returned Frederick, a good deal confuſed) 'I have the higheſt eſteem for miſs Edwards, but it 'would be too aſpiring for me to think or talk of 'loving her, beſides, I imagine by this time, ſhe has 'diſpoſed of herſelf.' 'No, replied Mrs. Vincent, 'ſhe ſtill continues unwedded, notwithſtanding ſhe 'has had ſeveral good offers, but ſhe has, refus'd 'them all, and I ſuppoſe intends to live ſingle, or 'preſerves her hand for ſome happy man, who yet is 'not known, but every body is at liberty to gueſs.' 'Whoever he is, replied Frederick with a ſigh, he 'muſt be happy; miſs Edwards is capable of mak-'ing any man bleſt; and may ſhe be ſo; I know 'no woman who more juſtly deſerves it.' 'I hope 'he will, captain Frederick, replied Mrs. Vincent 'with a ſmile, and I aſſure you, the world is vaſtly 'miſtaken, if you have not reaſon to wiſh him ſo; 'miſs Edwards's leaving London immediately after 'a certain perſon went abroad, has given room for 'conjectures; but I muſt not be too curious.' 'Has 'miſs Edwards left London?' 'What, I ſuppoſe 'you know nothing of the matter?' No, upon my 'honour,' replied he' 'O then, returned Mrs. 'Vincent, I can tell you news; as ſoon as you was 'gone to Flanders, miſs Edwards went to Scot-'land with Mr. and Mrs. Murray; ſhe was only to 'ſtay the ſummer, but ſhe wrote to me, that ſhe 'ſhou'd not come this winter, as her couſins ſpent 'the winter at Edinburgh, and that ſhe lik'd Scot-'land extremely; but you was not come to Eng-'land then, Mr. Frederick.' This was news in-deed, to Frederick, and the manner in which Mrs. Vincent told it, made it very agreeable; the flatterer hope encouraged him to think that Mrs. Vin-cent was honoured with Louiſa's confidence, and he was ready enough to think ſhe had reaſon on her ſide for what ſhe had hinted. He hugged himſelf in

the

the pleaſing de'uſion, and as ſoon as he was alone, fell to caſting ſchemes for regaining his dear Louiſa's favour, but fate had other commands for him to obey, ere that cou'd be done.

Whether Frederick had from nature or reaſon, a real averſion to gaming, I know not; or whether he thought it a diverſion unſuited to the ſofter ſex, in whom oaths, rage, and violence, are ſo extremely unbecoming, as they, like Selima, ſhould be,

Made up of love, without one jarring atom.

or that he thought women run a greater riſk than men; for the lord Halifax has very judiciouſly obſerved, 'That women have the honour of their 'families in their keeping, and therefore only they 'are to be excluded from it; and that the men 'might without any ſcruple of conſcience, freely 'practiſe it;' but certain it is, that while he was abroad, he contracted ſuch a love for that deteſtable diverſion, that at his return, he was as fond of play, as e'er a gameſter that ever frequented Arthur's chocolate-houſe.

Think nought a trifle, tho' it ſmall appears:

and from the firſt moment of his liking play, he ſtudied it with as much care as ever he had done the ſciences, and from the goodneſs of his judgment, the coolneſs of his head, and the application he uſed, he became in a ſhort time a moſt complete gameſter. He was alſo ambitious in trifles, ſince certainly gaming, tho' the chief buſineſs of many a poor wretch's life, is but a trifle; and no ſooner did he know his own ſtrength, than he delighted in playing with thoſe who were reckoned good players; this

was really the effect of ambition, for he was by no means avaritious, and would frequently, after he had won a conſiderable ſum, find means to reſtore it, when he thought it would be a prejudice to the loſer.

The character Frederick had acquired amongſt the gaming gentlemen, excited the curioſity of the gamblers to try their ſkill with him; among theſe was one Fiſher, whoſe chariot roll'd on the four aces, and who, by their aid, and that of the dice-box, had raiſed himſelf from a poor inſignificant creature, whom nobody knew, to be a man of conſequence, whom peers made their companion: he was a man of ſome family, and had received a good education, was agreeable in his perſon and converſation, and had much the air of a gentleman, all which were great advantages to recommend him to the acquaintance of thoſe who had more money than wit. He was unhappily deſcended from one of thoſe families who value themſelves on their gentility, and who had rather ſee a rogue or fille de joye amongſt the number of their relations, than a tradeſman: the melancholy conſequence of which is, that while there is a proviſion for the eldeſt ſon, and that frequently but a ſlender one, the younger are obliged to live by their wits, and there is not a more fruitful ſpot for them to ſhew their genius in than gaming. I ſhou'd not have been ſo particular in this account of Mr. Fiſher, but as it may ſerve in general, for the private hiſtory of moſt of the polite gameſters of the age.

Our hero had often ſeen Mr. Fiſher at a coffee-houſe he frequented; and as it is a rule that, while a man makes a genteel appearance, nobody enquires who he is, Frederick had no ſuſpicion of his real character;

character; ſo far from it, he was taken with his behaviour, thought him a mighty ſenſible clever man, and endeavoured to cultivate an acquaintance with him, little thinking, he was only paving the way to his own ruin.

Captain Johnſon, who was obliged to come to London to ſettle his late brother's affairs, and take poſſeſſion of that which by the colonel's death became his property, did not fail viſiting Frederick immediately after his arrival, and wanted to engage him to ſupper at his uncle Vincent's; Frederick excus'd himſelf, by telling him he was engag'd; captain Johnſon thought their long intimacy wou'd licence his freedom in aſking where, and was anſwered with Mr. Fiſher; 'What Fiſher?' interrogated the captain: 'I know but one of that name, re-'plied Frederick; he is a man of fortune, lives ve-'ry handſomely, keeps his equipage, and is a man of 'very good ſenſe, and has improv'd it extremely by 'a knowledge of the world.' 'What ſort of a man is he?' aſk'd Johnſon: here a deſcription of his perſon was given by Frederick, which was no ſooner finiſhed, than Johnſon cried out, 'I'll ſuffer death 'if it is not that notorious gambler, who ought to 'have been hang'd ten years ago: what, in the name 'of wonder, have you to do with ſuch an acquaint-'ance?' Frederick anſwered very coolly, that he believed he was miſtaken in the man, that Mr. Fiſher did indeed play, but that not as a gameſter, for he himſelf had frequently won of him at picquet, tho' indeed they never had played deep. 'I am not 'miſtaken, I am certain, replied Johnſon, I know 'Fiſher very well, and many have reaſon to know 'him; he has been very fortunate, tho' he was ob-'liged to leave the kingdom ſome years ago, he was 'ſo much noted; I ſuppoſe he thinks he is now for-'gotten,

'gotten, and has returned to make a few more 'dupes. If you have any regard for your welfare, 'avoid him, for truſt me, he is a very dangerous 'acquaintance; come, I inſiſt upon your putting 'off your engagement with him, and going with 'me; believe me, you will have reaſon to repent 'keeping your word with him.'

Frederick was naturally very warm in the intereſt of thoſe with whom he was acquainted; and tho' he had received ſo many proofs of the ſincerity of captain Johnſon's friendſhip for him, yet he could not bear to hear Fiſher ſpoke againſt, but anſwered captain Johnſon with ſome heat, that he was ſurpriſed to hear him ſpeak of a gentleman in that manner; that he knew Mr. Fiſher very well, and knew him incapable of what he ſaid to him; that he thought he was at years of diſcretion to chuſe what company he pleaſed, and wou'd not put off his engagement with Mr. Fiſher on any account whatever.

Captain Johnſon cou'd not help being a little diſpleaſed at Frederick's behaviour, and replied, 'Well, 'Sir, ſince you are ſo very wiſe, pray take the con'ſequence; I own it is none of my buſineſs; I wiſh 'you well, with all my heart, and wou'd ſave you 'from danger, but as you are ſo reſolute, I can do 'no more than wiſh you ſafe.' So ſaying, he left Frederick, who had not politeneſs enough at that time to make any anſwer, except by a formal bow.

As ſoon as capt. Johnſon was gone, he dreſt and waited on his new acquaintance, the appointment was made at a tavern, where he found Mr. Fiſher and two gentlemen, whom the former preſented to Frederick by their names; he had ſeen them before,

fore, and was not diſpleaſed at being introduced to them. As ſupper was not ready, cards were call'd for, and Frederick exerted his beſt ſkill but luck was againſt him; he loſt pretty conſiderably, but was far from being diſheartened, or thinking any thing of what the captain had lately told him. After ſupper they returned to play, when Frederick found himſelf more unlucky than before, notwithſtanding the game was changed. Fiſher found, that one to one, was a ſafer match than three to one, and propoſed inſtead of whilſt, picquet. Frederick knew him excellent at that game, and ſo he found; but as nothing excites a deſire of conqueſt ſo much as to redeem loſt honour, ſo nothing makes gameſters more eager to win, than having loſt; thus Frederick went on, with ſtaking, quits or double it, till he had loſt to the tune of near two thouſand pounds. When Mr. Fiſher getting up, ſaid, 'I think, Mr. Frederick 'it is too late to begin another game, you'll give me 'your bond, payable on ſight, for what I have had 'the honour of winning.

Debts of honour muſt be paid; and Frederick without farther conſideration, ſet his hand to a bond, which was immediately provided, and witneſſed by the two very honourable gentlemen he had the honour of being introduced to that evening.

He went home, without thinking much on what had juſt paſſed, and the next morning went abroad, with as much compoſure, as if nothing had happened; but in the evening; he received a note from Mr. Fiſher, deſiring him to meet him at the coffee-houſe. Thither he went, and found Mr. Fiſher, who received him very politely, and after ſome few apologies, told him, having preſent occaſion for money, he ſhou'd be much obliged to him

if

if he wou'd pay him what he had given his bond for, and genteelly put him in mind, that he had ſtaked his commiſſion. Frederick now firſt perceived his folly; he was not wiſe enough to know, that theſe hawks, if dallied with, will rather give up their claim, than ſtand a ſuit for it, ſince as thoſe debts, though honourable, are not lawful, they not only run a chance of being caſt, but of being too well known, or perhaps puniſhed into the bargain. He ſaw he was ruined, but his pride ſupported him to bear it like a man, and he only conſidered how he was to raiſe the money. He now recollected, and bitter was the recollection, what captain Johnſon had told him, therefore was too much aſhamed to think of ſeeking him, or aſking his advice. He only ſtudied how he was to diſpoſe of his commiſſion; Mr. Fiſher was no novice in thoſe matters, but gave him the beſt inſtructions, which he followed, ſold his commiſſion, paid his debts, and found himſelf on the verge of deſtruction.

If theſe memoirs ſhould fall into the hands of any perſon, who from the heighth of proſperity has been plunged in the depth of miſery; who through his own folly has forfeited honour, fame, fortune, love, eſteem, friendſhip, every thing that is dear to human kind, ſuch an one, and only ſuch, can form any idea of what Frederick felt in this cruel ſituation. His pride was as prevalent as ever, but alas! what had he left to be proud of? all was gone, and all through his own miſconduct! how cou'd he ſeek captain Johnſon, to whom he had been ſo much oblig'd, after acting in open defiance of his advice? Vincent, Vaughan, and a train of acquaintance and friends, how could he bear the thoughts of appearing before them, in the miſerable ſituation he was

likely

likely to be reduced to, whom he had ſo lately treated as equals?

But O! a worſe pang remained, he cou'd never more hope to ſee Louiſa, or if he did ſee her, it would be worſe than death; the very commiſſion ſhe had enabled him to purchaſe, had he ſold to diſcharge debts, contracted by that very folly, which had been the chief cauſe of his offending; and after reprehending her for it, how cou'd he think of beholding her, when he had been ſo much more culpable than ſhe had been?

It is impoſſible to deſcribe what he felt; reſolved to hide himſelf from the prying buſy world, he took lodgings in a very retired part of Weſtminſter: his ſervant was already diſcharged, and his horſes ſold, ſo that he had no nobody but himſelf to take care of: but alas! how ſolitary, how melancholy was the life he led! he never went out in the day-time, for fear of meeting ſome of his former acquaintance; early in the morning, or very late in the evening, he uſed to ſteal out and walk round the park, that ſcene of his former ſplendor, to indulge his melancholy reflections, and partake of the benefits of the free air.

The little money he had left, after the payment of his debts, was not ſufficient to purchaſe any employment any ways creditable, and would ſupport him but a ſhort time; his misfortune made ſo deep an impreſſion on him, that he frequently thought very ſeriouſly of putting an end to his life; but this appeared horrible to him; he had throughout all the gay ſcenes he had been engag'd in, (which were many more than are here related, as they were too trivial, and too much of a piece to deſerve repetition) preſerved the ground-work of thoſe excellent principles

ciples of religion, which had been imprinted on his mind by Mr. Goodman; he knew it was repugnant to the laws of the deity, nature, and man, to be an actual cauſe of his own death; and though in his moments of deſpair he meditated the method of doing it, yet religion and philoſophy conſtantly came timely to his aid, to ſave him from ſuicide; and he at length reſolved to combat with his fate, and by the aſſiſtance of reaſon, and thoſe two excellent aids above mentioned, conquer his griefs. He had for ſome years paſt, too much employment, to apply himſelf much too reading, but he now found it of great ſervice to him, it diverted his melancholy, and improved his mind. While he was in the army, only the lighter authors had gain'd his attention, but he now chang'd them for ſtudies of a more ſerious kind, and found that benefit by them that, in his preſent ſituation, was of great uſe.

He was now enabled to make calm and ſerious reflections on his paſt life; and though the review was ſomewhat painful, yet it was not wholly diſpleaſing: he found he had in many parts been blameable, and he deduced moſt of his errors from ambition, which certainly had been the principal cauſe of them; but now it was no more, he very gravely determined to forſake it, no more to be blinded by it; he remembered theſe lines of Dryden, and regretted that he had not obſerved them ſooner.

Ambition is a miſtreſs few enjoy,
Falſe to our hopes, and to our wiſhes coy;
The bold ſhe baffles, and defeats the ſtrong,
And all are ruin'd who purſue her long;
Yet ſo bewitching are her fatal charms,
We think it heav'n to die within her arms.

He

He now reſolved to lay aſide thoſe notions of grandeur, nobility, and riches, which he had ever entertained, and to ſeek for ſome employment, not unbecoming one who had once been a gentleman, and to endeavour to paſs the reſt of his life in obſcurity, with humility and content. Full of theſe thoughts, he ſat down one day, and wrote the following ode.

I.

Aſpiring thoughts no more diſturb my peace,
Ceaſe, ye ſeducers, artful flatt'rers ceaſe!
Ambition, with thy giddy train
Of lying hopes and wiſhes vain,
Sources of ever-growing pain,
Annoy no more my wearied breaſt,
But let my long tormented ſoul have reſt.

II.

Ceaſe to inſpire thy gay fallacious dreams,
Authors of wild impracticable ſchemes.
Tempt me no more with ſmiling face,
Reſign to lowlineſs thy place,
Nurſe of calm joy, and heav'nly grace.
Thro' whom, with equal mind, we bear
Smiles of proſperity, or frowns of care.

III.

Let patriots, zealous in their country's cauſe,
Fulfil thy dictates, and obey thy laws;
Let ſoldiers at great acts aſpire,
Warm'd by thy animating fire,
Heedleſs of plunder as of hire!

And

And let the ſailor brave the main,
For thee deſpiſing danger, toil, and pain.

IV.

While I for ever from thy influence free,
No more addreſs aſpiring vows to thee.
Bent with humility to ſtay,
And thence eſcape the thorny way,
Thro' which thy cheated vot'ries ſtray;
She ſhall my trembling footſteps guide,
Far diſtant from the dang'rous paths of pride.

V.

By her conducted to the humble cell,
Where lovely peace and bright contentment dwell,
Safe in the ſweet, though lowly bow'r,
From fortune's blaſts or whirls of pow'r,
Quiet I'll paſs life's remnant hour.
Nor queſtion more œconomy divine,
Or bramble born attempt to o'er-top the pine.

Had Frederick felt no more diſtreſs from his narrow circumſtances than he did for the firſt two or three months, he might have kept to theſe philoſophical reſolutions; but as his caſh decreaſed, his cares increaſed, he knew not how to ſeek for an employment, tho' he had ſo much neceſſity for it; ſome ſparks of that pride he thought he had conquered, were ſtill remaining, and now and then gave him a painful twinge. He had abſconded from all his friends ever ſince his misfortune, and he was now doubly aſham'd to ſee them, on account of his folly, and the diſtreſs they muſt perceive he was in. He might have made as good a livelihood as many others did, by gaming, if he could have brought himſelf

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to think of it, for he had bought experience enough to know all the ſlights practiſed by that infamous herd, but he abhorred the thoughts of living by fraud. The Stage would have offorded him a good proviſion; he had a very fine perſon, a good voice, a remarkably juſt way of pronunciation, and was perfectly genteel in all his actions; beſides, being a bit of a poet, he had ſtudied the dramatick authors with great attention, and was a very great connoiſſeur, both in their writings and in the actors performance: this occurred to him, but ſtill pride intervened; he cou'd not think a profeſſion which the law had deemed ſcandalous, conſiſtent with a man of honour, and one who had, by his king's commiſſion, been made a gentleman; 'tis true he knew ſeveral on the ſtage, who were well born, and had many more reaſons to deter them from it than he had, but he cou'd not conquer his delicacy, nor think of expoſing himſelf to the hiſſes of the upper gallery.

He at laſt came to a reſolution of going abroad; for he cou'd think of no method of living in England, conſiſtent with his notions; he had frequently ſeen advertiſements for clerks to go to the plantations, &c. and for this he was very well qualified, and this ſuited his inclination the more, as he ſhou'd then be unknown, and tho' he cou'd not expect but a ſmall ſalary, yet he thought he cou'd now conform to live within very narrow bounds.

He determined to go to an office, to enquire for ſuch a proviſion the very next day, and having laid down all his rules, went to take his uſual ſolitary walk in the Park, to reconſider them. This place brought a train of ideas to his remembrance, he look'd back to the time of his firſt walk thither, the day he firſt knew captain Johnſon; his errand was then

the ſame, as his tomorrow's was to be, but he cou'dn't hope ſo great ſucceſs, as he then had. He cou'dn't think of all theſe paſſages, without extreme pain, tho he did it without paſſion; tir'd with the ſevereſt title of ſupremeſt woe, he was leaning againſt one of the trees by Roſamond's pond, and looking attentively on the water, when he receiv'd a violent ſlap on the ſhoulder, accompanied with theſe words,

Spleen, thou worſt of fiends below,
Fly, I conjure thee, by this magic blow.

He turn'd immediately, and ſaw captain Smith, whom he had left in Flanders; he was ſo much ſurpris'd that he cou'd not ſpeak, when the captain cried, 'Why Sir, its worſe with you, than when you was abroad, you have loſt your memory, as well as your reaſon, what ails the man? is it not a ſhame for ſuch a clever fellow as thou art to be found in ſuch a melancholy mood?' Frederick begg'd his pardon, and told him, that indeed he was a little thoughtful, and not without cauſe. 'Well, replied Mr. Smith, I wont aſk you any more, I've heard of your accident, and am heartily ſorry for it; had I been in England, I wou'd have made you run that villain thro' the body, before you ſhou'd have ſold your commiſſion, and the king wou'd have had reaſon to thank you; but come, will you go home and ſup with me? I want to have a little talk with you." Frederick wou'd have excus'd himſelf, but captain Smith wou'd take no denial, and the friendly manner in which he inſiſted on it, quite overcame poor Frederick, who had not ſeen a friend for ſeveral tedious months.

Captain

Captain Smith took every method to chear Frederick, before he touch'd on the melancholy ſubject, and when he did, it was with a tenderneſs, not to be expected from a man, who tho' perfectly honeſt and good-natur'd, yet was not over polite. His manner won upon Frederick ſo much, that he told him his whole ſcheme, and begg'd his aſſiſtance in it. 'I believe, replied Smith, I can ſerve you; I 'wiſh I had known it three days ſooner, but I hope 'it is not now too late. I've an uncle, who is a 'very eminent Weſt-India merchant, and has vaſt 'plantations in Jamaica; he is going thither to ſell 'em, for as he has reſolved to leave off trade, and 'ſettle entirely in England, he muſt go thither 'himſelf, and he wants ſomebody on whom he can 'depend to go with him; for his clerk, whom he 'did intend to take is dead, and he don't chuſe to 'take ere a one of the others from home.' Frederick anſwered, that he ſhould be for ever obliged to him, if he would recommend him, for it was the very employ he ſhou'd chuſe; 'Aye, and (re-'plied Smith) it may make you a man for ever, for 'my uncle is very rich, and is good natur'd; if he 'likes you, perhaps he may ſettle you there, and 'then you may ſoon make a fortune; he is worth, 'at leaſt, two hundred thouſand pounds, which he 'has made chiefly by trade, for his father left him 'ſo ſmall an eſtate, that my grandfather, who was 'his guardian, did not think him a match good 'enough for my aunt, but after he had been ſome 'time in Jamaica, he was glad to find they had 'ſtole a wedding ſome years before.'

Frederick was mightily pleaſed with this proſpect; the beſt now that could offer, and captain Smith told him, he wou'd go to his uncle the very

next day, and desired he wou'd call upon him in the evening, and he should know his success. His heart was too much engaged in this scheme, for him to forget to go, and he had the satisfaction to find the captain at home, and that Mr. Nugent was so well pleased with the account he had given him of Frederick, that he desired to see him the next day. Captain Smith told him that he had no fear of success, and that he would accompany him thither; he did so, and introduced Frederick to Mr. Nugent in such a manner, as recommended him highly to that gentleman's favour. He told Frederick his terms, which indeed were very good, but withal, that he was still uncertain whether he should go, as he had that day received a letter from a person he employed there, acquainting him that he should be in England very soon, and perhaps the account he might bring, would save him the trouble of the voyage, but at all events, he wou'd, on captain Smith's account, provide him with an employ. Frederick thank'd him for his kind intentions, and the merchant invited both him and his nephew to dine with him, which offer they accepted.

Frederick had never before had any acquaintance in the city, nor had he the least idea of that wealth and abundance, which is found there; he admired Mr. Nugent's house extremely, and was charmed with the old English hospitality which was kept up in it. The hearty, friendly behaviour of Mr. and Mrs. Nugent, free from all the fine speeches, and far-fetch'd complaisance of the polite, pleased him excessively, and now all his thoughts were bent on making a fortune by commerce. Here a thought of Louisa popt in; were I once, thought he, master of a fortune equal to hers, I might boldly address her, for by what Mrs. Vincent told me, I've reason

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to think ſhe does not hate me, or if ſhe does, it is with Leonora's hatred.

I hate thee, O Alonzo! how I hate thee!

Then ſhe is above a title, ſhe aſpires not at grandeur, ſhe has a ſoul ſuperior to thoſe little conſiderations; then her father was a merchant, ſo was her uncle, and of Jamaica too, I dare ſay Mr. Nugent knew them both, and may befriend me. How ſoon does the flatterer hope inſpire its fallacious dreams, for all theſe thoughts were thought and rethought, while he ſat in Mr. Nugent's parlour.

Captain Smith had previouſly given Mr. Nugent as much as he knew of our hero's hiſtory, and that gentleman, finding by his nephew's account, that his finances muſt be very low, called him aſide when he was going, and putting a paper in his hand, 'Tis cuſtomary, ſaid he, to give earneſt on theſe accounts, and old cuſtoms ſhould not be dropt; let me ſee you in two or three days, and then I ſhall be able to tell you when I ſhall want you.' Frederick took his leave, and on opening the paper found a bank note for twenty pounds. This was a moſt ſeaſonable ſupply, and he went directly to a taylor, and ordered a ſuit of cloaths to be made up immediately.

Captain Smith was very much pleaſed with Frederick's ſucceſs, and bad him be ſure not to delay going again, which he had no reaſon to have done, for without the cauſe he had to ſeek this eſtabliſhment, he was of too grateful a diſpoſition to neglect thoſe who were his friends.

He went in a few days after, by particular invitation ſent to captain Smith, deſiring them both to dine with Mr. Nugent; and in this ſecond viſit, Frederick diſcovered many qualities in his new friend, which gave him pleaſure. Mr. Nugent, though long attached to trade, had not forgot the improvements a liberal education had made, on a very good underſtanding for which he was indebted to nature; a very polite and learned diſcourſe was held by the three gentlemen after dinner, which might have held much longer, if a ſervant had not interrupted it by telling Mr. Nugent that a gentleman wanted him, who was deſired to walk in, and who was received with marks of very great eſteem by Mr. and Mrs. Nugent. After the ſtranger had been ſeated ſome minutes, and abundance of enquiries had been made and anſwered, he ſtarted up, and looking at Frederick with the greateſt eagerneſs, he cried out, 'Good heavens! Mr. Frederick, how you are 'grown! what an alteration have twelve years made! Frederick was aſtoniſhed, and after looking ſome time very attentively at the ſtranger, ſaid, 'Upon 'my word, Sir, I cannot recollect you;' 'No! re-'plied he, don't you remember me? why my name 'is Gr.en, I uſed to come every quarter, by your 'grandmamma's order, to Mr. Goodman's, to 'pay for your ſchooling and cloathing, you was 'juſt fourteen when I went abroad; you was then a 'ſweet boy, I've often deſired to hear of you ſince, 'but to no purpoſe.'

Frederick's ſurpriſe was beyond deſcription: he now perfectly recollected every feature of Mr. Green's face, and cried out, 'Good Providence! 'at laſt my wiſhes are anſwered, tell me, good 'Sir, who were my parents, who was that grand-'mother you mention?' What, replied Mr. Green

'don't'

'don't you know? Did ſhe die with the ſecret in 'her boſom? Why theſe are your parents, Mr. 'Nugent is your father, and Mrs. Nugent your mo-'ther, of which I am ready to make oath." Here was a ſet of ſtarers! Frederick ſtared on them, fearful of believing what he could wiſh, and they on him, and Mr. Smith on all of them. Mr. Nugent at laſt broke the profound ſilence, by ſaying, " Mr. 'Green, I believe you are a very honeſt man, and I 'cannot think my nephew would be acceſſary to 'bringing an impoſtor into my Family, but I can't 'deviſe how this gentleman can be my ſon, I never 'had but one child, and that died in the birth, as 'my wife informed me; for I was not in England 'when it was born.' 'Aye, Sir, replied Mr. Green, 'you thought ſo, and ſo did Mrs. Nugent, but I 'knew to the contrary, and had the care of him, 'till you got me the place to go to Jamaica; I was 'ſworn to ſecrecy, or would then have told you of 'it, but my old lady aſſured me ſhe would diſcover 'it before her death; but that the child lived, parſon 'Wilkins who chriſtened him, and nurſe Parry who 'ſuckled him, can witneſs, if they are alive, and I 'am ſure this gentleman is he.'

Mrs. Nugent, who had been ſilent all this time, cried out, 'Is it poſſible? did my child live? and 'cou'd my mother be ſo cruel, as to deprive me of 'the pleaſure of knowing it? tell me, Mr. Green, 'every circumſtance.' Mr. Green began as follows. 'You know, madam, that Mr. Nugent was ſent 'abroad to prevent his marrying you, my maſter 'and lady little thinking it was too late, and that 'you was already in a fair way of giving him an 'heir; and that he had not been long gone, before 'my lady diſcovered it, and that ſhe was very angry 'about it; all this you know better than I do, but

'one

'one day she sent for me to her; Green, says she, 'can you keep a secret? Yes, my lady, said I; 'well but says she, you must swear to do, till I 'give you leave to divulge it; I told her I wou'd; 'and after I had taken my oath, she told me, that 'you was married privately to Mr. Nugent, that 'your father knew nothing of it, and wou'd never 'forgive you if he did; now Green, said she, I 'have so contriv'd, that he shall know nothing of 'her lying in, and you must provide a nurse to take 'care of the child, which I do not intend she shall 'know lives, in case it does, as a punishment for her 'disobedience: remember you have sworn to keep 'it secret. I again repeated my promise, and went 'in search of a nurse; I found, about ten miles 'from our house, a very good sort of a woman, one 'dame Parry, with whom I made an agreement to 'take care of a child I shou'd bring her, and I kept 'a horse constantly saddled, that I might be ready 'to set off at a moment's warning. My master was 'luckily gone into the country, when master Frederick was born, and my lady managed so well, 'that very few in the family knew any thing of the 'matter, and those that did, were sworn to secrecy, 'as also was parson Wilkins, who was sent for to 'christen him, before I carried him away. I used to 'go every week while he was at nurse to see him, 'and when he was near four years old, my lady desired I wou'd look out for a school, at some distance; having heard of Mr. Goodman, I plac'd 'him there, and went constantly every quarter for 'near ten years after; when you, Sir, got me the 'place to go abroad. Your marriage was made 'publick before that, and I had often urged my lady 'to let you know that your son liv'd, and repeated 'it very strongly before my departure; but all the 'answer she made me was, that she would do it

'when

'when ſhe thought proper; and in ſome letters I 'wrote to her after I was gone, I again urg'd her: 'this, madam, is nothing but the truth; and if Mr. 'Wilkins, and the other perſons I named are alive, 'they can prove it alſo; and moreover, I have by 'me all the bills I paid for his board, &c. and ſeve-'ral letters from my lady, when ſhe was in town, 'about him, which I will produce to convince you 'of the truth of what I ſay."

Here Mr. Green ſtopped, and tho' the emotions his diſcourſe had raiſed in the breaſts of his hearers were various, yet they all were ſuch, as deſcription cannot reach, and an attempt of that ſort, would be ſo far from giving ſatisfaction, that it would weaken the force of thoſe ideas a lively imagination is capable of forming.

As Frederick was the moſt concerned, ſo his agitation was the greateſt. He had always moſt earneſtly wiſhed to find his parents, and never till this moment had the leaſt glimpſe of them; his circumſtances had never been ſo deſperate before, (for though he had on his firſt entrance into the great world ſought the very ſame eſtabliſhment he had now gained, yet it was with very different notions: he was then young, and though ambitious, yet within a ſmaller ſphere were his aſpiring thoughts confined; and let any one, who has once been in a more elevated ſituation, think how very diſagreeable it muſt be to be forced to take to ſuch an employ) therefore a proſpect of ſuch riches, muſt be pleaſing; and Mr. and Mrs. Nugent had already behaved ſo very friendly to him, on captain Smith's account, that without allowing any thing for inſtinct, &c. he with reaſon wiſhed that he might be proved their ſon.

Mrs.

Mrs. Nugent thought Mr. Green's relation sufficiently convincing, and uttered with great eagerneſs, 'Good heavens, how happy am I! after thinking 'myſelf unfortunate for ſo many tedious years, to 'find I have a ſon!' and was going to embrace him with great tranſport; Frederick advanced with equal emotion, when Mr. Nugent, leſs credulous, or more cautious, ſtept between, with 'Stay, 'my dear, don't let us be too haſty in believing 'what, if we are deceived in, will only, on a diſcovery 'of the deception, make us more miſerable than 'ever. I wou'd not diſtruſt Mr. Green's honeſty, but 'as he can produce the papers he mentioned, and as 'Mr. Wilkins lives juſt by, let us have what teſti-'mony they can ſhew, before we give an implicit 'belief; and while theſe are fetching, we'll hear 'the young gentleman's own account.'

Mr. Green ſaid he wou'd go directly for the papers, and a ſervant was diſpatched for Mr. Wilkins, who had, by Mr. Nugent's intereſt, been preferred to the rectory of the pariſh they inhabited.

While they were waiting for the return of Mr. Green, and the coming of Mr. Wilkins, Frederick was deſired to tell his ſtory, which he did very faithfully, omitting only his gallantries, &c. which were by no means neceſſary at preſent; and produced his certificate and indentures, and the letter which had been ſent to Mr. Goodman, to inform him that no farther care wou'd be taken of him; all which he had carefully preſerved, and carried conſtantly about him. Mrs. Nugent no ſooner took the letter, than ſhe cried out, 'I am convinc'd, I am ſure this is my mother's writing.' and fetching ſome writing of hers, it appeared, on comparing, exactly the ſame.

Fre-

Frederick, charm'd with her eagerneſs, anſwered, 'If, madam, I am not ſo happy, as to be proved 'your child, I ſhall always have a filial affection for 'you.' She was going to anſwer, when Mr. Wil-'kins came in.

As ſoon as he was ſeated, Mr. Nugent told him, they had ſent for him to anſwer ſome queſtions of the utmoſt importance, and firſt, 'If he had ever 'chriſtened a child of Mrs. Nugent's?' he anſwered, 'He had, but had been ſworn to ſecrecy when he 'did it.' 'That we know, replied Mr. Nugent, 'but now that is become void, What name did 'you give it? 'Frederick, replied he, and was 'deſired by my lady to regiſter him by no other 'name.' 'Who was preſent at the time? There 'were my lady, her own maid, Mr. Green, and 'myſelf.' 'And do you know what became of 'that child? Only from what my lady told me, 'for I had the curioſity frequently to aſk, and her 'ladyſhip always anſwered that he was living and 'well, and the laſt time before her laſt illneſs 'ſhe told me he was at ſchool in Yorkſhire, 'with one Mr. Goodman, who was a fellow 'collegian of mine. When I attended her in 'her laſt illneſs, I frequently preſt her to make 'his birth publick, but ſhe anſwered, ſhe could 'not do it, that ſhe would take care of him; 'and when ſhe was thought to be recovering, I 'again urg'd her, upon which ſhe anſwered in a pet, 'that ſhe would do it immediately, and calling for 'paper, wrote a letter; what the contents were I 'know not, and gave it me to put in the poſt; 'twas directed to Mr. Goodman. Her death 'happened very ſoon after, and though I did 'intend to have viſited my old acquaintance, 'and have gratified my curioſity, yet long ill-

neſſes,

'neſſes, and other unavoidable accidents, pre-
'vented me. I have often had it in my mind,
'to break, the matter to you, but then the oath
'I had taken, which ſhe never gave me leave
'to break, hindred me; but now I find you
'have received ſome information of it, I think
'myſelf freed.'

The good parſon had hardly ended, when Mr. Green arriv'd, bringing a bundle of papers, which were read; and all proofs being laid together, there remained no room for doubt, and Mr. Nugent was as forward to embrace his ſon, as his wife had been, and both with real paternal affection, though they might be ſaid never to have ſeen him before.

Frederick's extacy was too great for utterance; he flung himſelf at his parents feet, and with looks more expreſſive than words, poured forth the ſentiments of his heart; they forced him to riſe, and Mr. Nugent kindly ſaid, 'Excuſe me, that I was cau-
'tious in believing you mine; I was afraid to do
'it, for in the ſhort acquainting I've had with
'you, I have diſcovered ſo much merit in you, as
'wou'd have made it a real diſappointment had I
'been miſtaken, but now I have no doubts remain-
'ing, and for the future, will endeavour to prove
'myſelf a father indeed.'

Mr. Wilkins congratulated our hero on his unexpected fortunate diſcovery, as did Mr. Green moſt ſincerely, and captain Smith, who was really a very good ſort of a man, and had long had a friendſhip for Frederick, ſaid, 'Well couſin, though I have
'brought you hither to pull my own noſe out of
'joint, yet I muſt give you joy; may you have
'happineſs equal to your merit, and may you, and
'my

'my good aunt and uncle, long live and enjoy the 'comfort you will be to each other, and may no-'thing ever be wanting to complete your felicity.'

Frederick made proper returns to all theſe congratulations, and that with a modeſty ſo becoming a man of ſenſe, as raiſed him ſtill higher in the eſteem of his parents.

His birth was immediately made publick in the family, and amongſt their acquaintance, and a proper allowance was made him, ſervants hired, a genteel chariot provided, and every thing ſuitable for the heir of one of the moſt eminent merchants in the city; and I think a little vanity may be excuſed, if ſuch it can be deemed, that he took the firſt opportunity he cou'd, of informing his St. James's acquaintance of his good fortune, and of writing an account of it to his old friend captain Johnſon, and in the moſt tender manner, begging a continuance of his friendſhip; and the regard that gentleman had always expreſſed for him, will make it be eaſily believed that he rejoiced ſincerely at it.

All this change of fortune did not occaſion an alteration in Frederick's heart, nor did the new and unexpected engagements he was brought into, eraſe the remembrance of Louiſa. It was now near two years ſince he had ſeen her, or heard of her, except by Mrs. Vincent, and it will be thought paſt credit that he ſtill continued to admire her, that is, that his admiration ſhou'd be great enough to give him pain. I will not pretend to ſay that he allowed conſtancy a place among the male virtues, or whether he had not ſo high an opinion of it, as for its ſake, to be conſtant to fifteen at a time; but as his intrigues were of little conſequence, we ſhall take no notice of them,

ſince they were not ſufficient to weaken his love for Louiſa, though they might, for a moment, ſuſpend it. He ſtill lov'd her, ſtill thought that were ſhe once freed from thoſe foibles which he had pointed to her, ſhe was the only woman he could think of wedding.

This elevation of his fortune gave him new hopes and new deſires; never before had he dared to think ſeriouſly of wedlock and Louiſa at once; but now he was her ſuperior in point of fortune, now he could boldly addreſs, and now he cou'd convince her and the world of his love, ſincerity, gratitude, and diſintereſted views. But how to break the matter to his parents, whoſe conſent he thought abſolutely neceſſary, or to Louiſa, embarraſſed him very much.

Leaving him to his meditations, it will be but polite to take a ſtep to Scotland, and inquire after the lady to whom we have been ſo much obliged.

Louiſa, though gay, and apparently thoughtleſs, was a woman of very fine ſenſe, and great reſolution; ſhe had been brought up with a notion of grandeur, and was very ſoon her own miſtreſs, and when free from controul, gave a looſe to thoſe inclinations for pleaſure and expence, which ſhe had imbib'd from her cradle; et as her intentions were perfectly innocent, ſhe never apprehended any danger from thoſe freedoms ſhe allowed herſelf, and while ſhe was a very ſtrict obſerver of the duties of religion and morality in every point, thought herſelf quite clear; though ſhe practiſed coquetry and followed gaming, ſufficiently to excuſe licentious tongues. She was not in a ſituation to meet with

ſincerity

ſincerity from either ſex, nor had ſhe ever cauſe to think herſelf wrong, till Frederick informed her ſhe was; ſhe was ſoon convinced, and no ſooner was ſo, than ſhe determined to quit the very ſhadow of folly. She found in Scotland a ſafe aſylum, and as love inſpir'd her with reſolution, that and the converſation of Mr. and Mrs. Murray, ſoon made her able to think of London and all its vanities without regret. Louiſa's good qualities and agreeable behaviour, were ſufficient to gain the eſteem of any who had the happineſs of being acquainted with her: ſhe was ſoon introduced to ſeveral perſons of the firſt rank in Scotland, with whom ſhe contracted a pleaſing and profitable acquaintance, and ſhe daily improv'd by the excellent diſcourſes of Mr. and Mrs. Murray; in a few months ſhe became quite another perſon; though free from coquetry, yet ſhe carefully avoided the equally diſagreeable extreme of prudery; her converſation was chearful, eaſy, and free from affectation of every kind; ſhe now deſpiſed all publick pleaſures, but as they are in moderation, a proper relaxation to the mind, and a kind of ſocial band amongſt perſons of faſhion. Gaming to exceſs ſhe looked on with horror, and in moderation, with indifference. Dreſs, any farther than as a decent compliance with the faſhion, ſuitable to her rank, required, ſhe thought beneath her ſtudy; nothing remained of Louiſa's former principles, but thoſe excellent ones of piety, charity, &c. for which, in her gayeſt time, ſhe had been conſpicuous, and theſe were heightened.

With theſe happy improvements, ſhe had gained eaſe of mind, which is the greateſt bleſſing from above: 'tis true, ſhe often thought of Frederick, both as a lover and a friend; but yet ſhe was free

from thoſe inquietudes, that impatience, which ſpoils the peace of the moſt calmly diſpoſed breaſt. She had overcome that pride, which had at their firſt ſeparation troubled her, and though it may be ſaid her love was leſs, yet her eſteem was greater. If ever marriage was mentioned to her, 'tis true, ſhe conſtantly thought of Frederick; but as ſhe made no reſolution of marrying none but him, ſo ſhe determined to do nothing in his favour, that might incur cenſure.

She was in this diſpoſition, when ſhe received a letter from Mrs. Vincent, containing a great deal of chit chat, and amongſt the reſt, that poor captain Frederick had been obliged to ſell his commiſſion; that nobody knew what was become of him, but it was believed he was concealed ſomewhere in London, and in great diſtreſs. This was enough for Louiſa, ſhe read no farther: 'In diſtreſs! cried ſhe, 'and I in affluence! but he ſhall not long be ſo, 'I'll find him if he's in Europe. What! ſhall that 'beſt of men, that ſincereſt of Friends be in want, 'while I am able to help him? No, malice I defy 'thee. I'll ſet out for London this inſtant.' Then burſting into tears, 'Frederick diſtreſſed! I cannot, 'cannot bear the thought!' After giving way to that friendly relief, ſhe again took up Mrs. Vincent's letter, and read that nobody wondered at it, though all his acquaintance were ſorry for him, but nothing elſe could be expected from his extravagant follies. 'Nobody wonder at it! no, I ſhou'd wonder if they 'did, for merit is certain to be unfortunate. His 'acquaintance ſorry! why then do they not ſhew 'their ſorrow, and relieve his diſtreſſes? London is 'not ſo large, but a worthy man might be found, if 'proper ſearch was made, though ever ſo cloſely 'hid. His extravagant follies! he has none, can

'have

'have none; this is the poor excuſe of thoſe, who 'are aſhamed of owning their want of common 'humanity; O how I deſpiſe the wretches! but 'yet I ought to thank them, that they have enabled 'me alone to be grateful to him: O Frederick, thy 'diſtreſſes have made thee doubly dear to me; I'll 'fly to thy aid. Frederick in neceſſity! cruel, cruel 'fortune!' then burſting again into tears, ſhe freely indulged that luxury of ſorrow this news had occaſioned.

Mrs. Murray coming into the room, was ſurpriſed to find her thus employed, and begged to know the cauſe; Louiſa, drying her eyes, told her, ſhe had received ſome news from London, which afflicted her very much, and requir'd her immediate preſence there. Mrs. Murray's curioſity was raiſed, but Louiſa's caution was ſo great, that ſhe could not get the ſecret from her, though ſhe ſtill perſiſted in her reſolution of quitting them the very next day; and accordingly ordered her maid to pack up immediately, and had a vehicle provided to ſet out the very next morning; nor cou'd all the intreaties and arguments of Mr. and Mrs. Murray prevail on her to retard her journey even a day.

I doubt not, but ſome of my readers, will be of Louiſa's opinion, and think his acquaintance ought to have ſhown their concern, by ſeeking to alleviate Frederick's woe; but they muſt make ſome allowances for the depravity of human nature. Captain Johnſon has, by his behaviour hitherto, ſhown himſelf a perfectly honeſt man, and a ſincere friend to our hero; but his diſpleaſure at the little regard Frederick paid to his remonſtrances, muſt plead his excuſe; had Frederick aſk'd his aſſiſtance, he wou'd gladly have given it; but there are two kinds of pride at-

tendant on benevolence, the one likes to be ſupplicated, the other, the far more amiable, delights in anticipating the wiſhes of the needy. Mr. Vincent had a great friendſhip for Frederick, but then his friendſhip was a little of the weather-cock nature; it had been contracted when both were love lorn, both had got over that diſtemper, were both gay, and their amity continued, and had any misfortune happen'd to Mr. Vincent at the time Frederick was unfortunate, he wou'd ſtill have ſympathiz'd with him, but new attachments took up his thoughts, and he fell into the too general error,

Look into thoſe, the world calls unfortunate,
You'll find they've been unwiſe.

and mingling too much rigid juſtice with his charity, prevented the latter from being ſerviceable where wanted. I ſhall not enter into a particular deſcant, on the diſpoſitions of his numerous acquaintance, ſuch as only deſerve that name; ſome condemn'd, ſome excus'd, all pitied, but none ſought to relieve. Captain Smith was the laſt who might have been expected, yet was the firſt to offer; he was naturally good-natured, tho' blunt, and had a very tender heart, altho' no man ſeem'd more reſolute; he always lik'd Frederick, and his accidentally meeting with him in the deſponding manner he did, excited his compaſſion, and made him reſolve to ſerve him. He did it effectually, and whether chance, inſtinct, or providence guided him I can't ſay, but certain it is, that altho' he forfeited very conſiderable expectations by Frederick's good fortune, yet he was very far from repining at it. Captain Johnſon's anſwer to Frederick's letter ſufficiently expreſs'd his joy, and the reality of his friendſhip, and Mr. Vincent paid his congratulations with ſuch a warmth, as cou'd

not

not be ſuſpected of inſincerity, nor were any of thoſe he made himſelf known to, as Mr. Nugent, wanting in politeneſs, or apparent pleaſure at his good fortune.

While miſs Edwards was on the road to London, ſhe was buſied in contriving expedients to diſcover the place of Frederick's retreat, and how ſhe cou'd ſerve him. She cou'd not pretend to do it alone, and ſhe thought a gentleman the propereſt aſſiſtant. Mr. Vincent was one of the moſt diſcreet ſhe knew, and beſides had been Frederick's moſt intimate friend; to him ſhe reſolved to apply, and as ſoon as ſhe arriv'd in London, ſent a card, deſiring to ſpeak with him immediately. Tho' he had been ſome time a huſband, he had not ſo far loſt his politeneſs, but he immediately obey'd her. As ſoon as the uſual compliments had paſs'd, he begg'd to be inform'd of the occaſion of the honour ſhe had conferr'd on him? 'Mr. Vincent, ſaid ſhe, it is in your power to do 'me a very great piece of ſervice. I owe the high-'eſt obligations imaginable to a perſon, who I 'hear is now in the utmoſt want, and I can't be hap-'py till I have repaid him. I believe it is in your 'power to find the perſon I mean, and I dare depend 'on your prudence.' Mr. Vincent aſſur'd her, that he wou'd gladly uſe that power, and that ſhe might ſafely truſt him, as he wou'd readily give her any aſſurances ſhe pleas'd of his fidelity. Louiſa thank'd him, and then proceeded; 'The perſon 'I mean is Mr. Frederick; I've been inform'd of 'his unhappy ſituation, and am not aſham'd of own-'ing, that his advice has been of ineſtimable ſer-'vice to me; my fortune enables me to return the 'favour in ſome meaſure, and my requeſt to you is, 'that you'll inſtantly find him out, and let me know 'how I can ſerve him.' Mr. Vincent found by

Louiſa's

Louiſa's diſcourſe and the emotion ſhe diſcover'd, that ſhe was ignorant of Frederick's ſucceſſes, and he was willing to keep her ſo, as well to indulge his curioſity, as to enjoy the pleaſure of giving her a ſudden ſurprize; and anſwer'd, 'Indeed, madam, 'the poor young fellow has been unlucky, but I fear 'you will have cauſe to repent of your charity: for-'give me if I hint what the world will ſay to a young 'lady's coming two or three hundred miles to aſſiſt 'a young adventurer!' 'The world, Mr. Vincent, 'return'd Louiſa, with indignation; is the opinion of 'the world to be regarded in a caſe where the hap-'pineſs of a fellow creature is depending? I'm 'ſure the good will clear me from any imputation 'of folly; and tho' I wou'd willingly eſcape the 'laſh of the moſt mean detractor, yet here, I am 'above calumny. No, Mr. Vincent, I'm ſure none 'will cenſure me, but thoſe poor mean creatures, 'who had not ſpirit enough to aid the man in diſtreſs, 'whom they courted when in proſperity; I pity, 'and I deſpiſe them.' Mr. Vincent, a little tou-'ched, replied, 'Well, madam, I own you have 'an heroick way of thinking, and deſerve applauſe.' 'I ſeek no applauſe, replied ſhe, I only wiſh to 'help a worthy man, I will gladly loſe the merit of 'it, and ſhall think myſelf farther oblig'd to you, if 'you will take it upon yourſelf, nor ever let even 'Frederick know that he is oblig'd to me; 'I wou'd ſave him the confuſion of thinking ſo.' Mr. Vincent cou'd not help being charm'd with her generoſity and delicacy, and was on the point of letting her know, that her aſſiſtance was now needleſs; but as he expected great pleaſure from the diſcovery, he determin'd to ſuſpend it to make it more pleaſing. 'I cannot exactly tell, ſaid he, 'where he is to be met with, but there is a gentle-'man to ſup with me to night, who is the moſt likely

'perſon

'perſon to inform us, if you will favour us with your company.' 'What, Sir, interrupting him, did not you juſt now mention the opinion of the world, and wou'd you introduce me to another for intelligence, in order to make my deſigns more publick?' You have nothing to fear from him, replied he, he is Mr. Frederick's moſt intimate friend, and has been ſo throughout his misfortunes, tho' not in a capacity of helping him; and you may rely on his prudence; perhaps you know him, his name is Nugent.' He look'd attentively at her, when he ſpoke, to ſee if he cou'd perceive any alteration in her looks, whereby he cou'd think ſhe knew any thing of the matter, but to no purpoſe. 'No, replied ſhe, I know but one of that name, a very great Weſt-India merchant, who was one of my uncle's executors, and I don't think he is the perſon you mean.' No, madam, this is a young gentleman, Mr. Frederick's and my particular friend, do but conſent to come, and I dare promiſe you, you will not be diſpleas'd. Let me tell Mrs. Vincent ſhe may expect you.' Louiſa paus'd a little, but at laſt told him ſhe wou'd certainly wait on them.

Mr. Vincent took his leave, and inform'd his wife of every tittle that had paſs'd, and ſhe, who was both a friend to Frederick and his fortune, was highly pleas'd, and waited with impatience for the ſcene which was to be acted in the evening.

Had Frederick had the leaſt fore-knowledge of the happineſs which awaited him, he wou'd not have fail'd in being punctual to the time he had ſet to wait on Mr. Vincent; but as he had no notion of it, he ſuffer'd him and Louiſa to wait a full hour in expectation of Mr. Nugent: it was not uſual with him

him to behave thus, but his ſtay was occaſion'd by his accidentally eſpying Mr. Vaughan, whom he had not ſeen ſince he ſhone in ſcarlet and gold. He pull'd the ſtring of his chariot, and calling to Mr. Vaughan, ſurpris'd that gentleman by the appearance he made. After the uſual compliments, which were made with great warmth on both ſides, he told him he was going to ſup at his brother Vincent's, and aſk'd him to accompany him; Mr. Vaughan excus'd himſelf, by ſaying he had an appointment at a coffee-houſe, to which they were juſt oppoſite, on buſineſs of great conſequence; that if he cou'd intrude on him for a few minutes, he ſhou'd be much obliged, as he wanted much to talk with him. Frederick complied, and went into the coffee-houſe with him, where they were no ſooner ſeated, than he expreſs'd his pleaſure at this unexpected interview. Frederick told him, he imagined he had already heard the ſequel of his ſtory from Mr. and Mrs. Vincent.

'No, replied Mr. Vaughan, I am ſo unfortunate as 'to have loſt their good graces: I own I have been 'to blame; my father left me a plentiful fortune, 'which I, having been us'd to ſlender allowance, 'thought cou'd never be exhauſted; my ſiſter's 'marrying was a little mal-apropos; I cou'd not 'pay her fortune, with which I was ſaddled; and 'tho' ſhe had given me reaſon to think her the moſt 'tender creature breathing, I found, where her 'intereſt was concern'd, ſhe was a very tygreſs. 'I had, beſides, run myſelf unthinkingly into very 'deep debts, and indeed I believe few men cou'd 'have ſpent in the time more money, or done it 'more genteelly; I found my error, when too late, 'and as I had not taken the precaution of getting a 'ſeat in the houſe, I thought proper to quit the 'kingdom, that I might have the pleaſure of breathing the free air. I took my flight, juſt after you

went

'went abroad, and have been return'd but a few 'days. A worthy old man, whom I employ'd, has 'ſo well rectified my affairs in my abſence, that I 'can now look my worſt enemies in the face with-'out fear; and it is him I expect, in order to ſettle 'the whole. Now, Frederick, let me hear your 'ſtory, for what you have ſaid, and your genteel 'equipage, give me cauſe to think you have met 'with adventures worthy attention.' Frederick, finding he was quite ignorant of his hiſtory, related every circumſtance very minutely; and the alteration it cauſed in the various periods, in Mr. Vaughan's features, gave Frederick great pleaſure. When he had ended, Mr. Vaughan got up, and embracing him, cried out,

'The ways of heav'n are dark and intricate;
Puzzl'd in mazes, and perplex'd with errors,
Our underſtanding traces them in vain
Nor ſees with how much art the windings run,
Nor where the regular confuſion ends.'

'Dear Frederick, moſt ſincerely do I rejoice at thy 'good fortune, long may you live to enjoy it! But 'ſtill, Frederick, there is one addition wanting; were 'miſs Edwards flung into the bargain----Come I 'know your heart was her's.' 'And is ſo ſtill, re-'plied Frederick, with a ſigh, but I fear ſo it muſt 'remain, without hope of a return. She has a-'bandoned London, and I have fears of propoſing it 'to my parents; and if they ſhould approve of my 'paſſion, I have too much cauſe to fear from her 'behaviour when I ſaw her laſt, that I ſhould 'be rejected. And then I own, I have ſtill that 'fooliſh delicacy remaining that, ſpite of love, 'I muſt be convinced 'tis me, and not my preſent 'fortune that ſhe prefers.' 'Well, replied Mr.

'Vaughan,

'Vaughan, I'll ſay no more, than that I wiſh you 'ſucceſs, and that to your own wiſhes.' Frederick thank'd him, and looking on his watch, found he had exceeded his time, and making Mr. Vaughan promiſe to call on him very ſoon, he ordered his coachman to make his beſt ſpeed to Mr. Vincent's.

Mr. Vincent, who began to grow very impatient, liſtened to every coach that went through the ſtreet, and as ſoon as he heard the ran-tan at his door, flew down to receive Mr. Nugent. Frederick began to apologize, when Mr. Vincent interrupted him with, 'Nay, Sir, it is your own loſs; you have miſt the 'pleaſure of a good hour's converſation with one of 'your beſt friends, one who, ignorant of your good 'fortune, is come to London on purpoſe to ſerve 'you.' 'Who can that be?' interrogated Frede-'rick. 'You hardly deſerve to know, replied the 'other; but come, let us loſe no more time.' So ſaying, he conducted Frederick into the dining-room, and preſenting him to Louiſa, ſaid, 'This, 'madam, is Mr. Nugent; and this, Mr. Nugent, 'is the moſt generous of women.'

What was the ſurpriſe, the joy of this couple! Ye that have known what innocent, pure, diſintereſted love is, and the ſenſations which the unexpected meeting with the worthily beloved object cauſes, can tell! Words are too poor, elſe would I tell the uninformed, and thoſe who are incapable of entertaining that really noble paſſion, when confin'd within thoſe bounds which wiſdom places, what extatic tranſports this interview gave to each party!

Silence, the only expreſſion of what words cannot reach, for ſome moments reign'd, when Frederick

rick cried out, 'Is it poſſible? do I behold my dear 'Louiſa? and is ſhe that friend? Oh! thus on my 'knees let me thank her for that kind care which 'bounteous Providence has rendered unneceſſary!' 'How, replied Louiſa, am I come too late? Tell 'me, Mr. Frederick, has heaven inſpired ſome 'worthy object to interpoſe, and take from me the 'merit of aſſiſting you? What means the appella-'tion of Nugent, which Mr. Vincent gave you?' 'Deareſt creature, replied Frederick, I have not 'words to tell you; know that, after being plunged 'in the deepeſt diſtreſs, I am proved to be the 'ſon and heir of the wealthy Mr. Nugent, who ac-'knowledges me, and takes every method to make 'me content with my good fortune; but it is you, 'you, my dear Louiſa, that muſt make me happy!' Louiſa had hardly done wondering at the very dif-ferent appearance Frederick made, from what ſhe had expected, and her unforeſeen meeting with him, when new wonders aroſe, and cauſed a new ſet of whens, hows, and whats, which Frederick anſwered greatly to her ſatisfaction, as faſt as her impatience and his own would let him.

When he had ran over his adventures, he again re-peated that it ſtill remained in her power to make him happy or wretched. Louiſa had, by this time, a little recollected her ſcattered ſenſes, and though above affectation, was a little abaſhed at the warmth ſhe had diſcovered. She anſwered Frederick, that the obligations he had conferred on her, and his ſin-cere attachment to her, merited her gratitude, but that he now had filial ties, which ſhe was certain he had too much prudence to break, and that as he had firſt taught her diſcretion, he ſurely would not lead her to a breach of it.

Frederick fear'd he had been too bold, and now his ſtrange preſumption, when he was her inferior, came in his head, and he began to apologize, tho' ſomewhat aukwardly, for both. Louiſa ſtopt him ſhort, by ſaying, 'Mr. Frederick, you have no occaſion to endeavour to excuſe either; the one, 'my own behaviour has encouraged, and for the 'other, you had ſufficient cauſe, and I have reaſon 'to thank you. Yes, Sir, to you it is I owe what 'I am. I was in the high road to ruin, if your 'timely remonſtrances and advice had not ſav'd me; 'nor am I aſhamed to own I once was wrong, ſince 'you cauſed my reformation.

How pleaſing to Frederick were theſe words! he had ever lov'd her as the firſt of women, but her having ſeen and forſaken her follies, made him now think her an angel.

Their converſation would perhaps have held till now, (for lovers, though all they ſay might, for the importance of it, be put into a nut-ſhell, have the art of ſpinning out their diſcourſes, ſo as to exceed all bounds) had not Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, who charitably thought they would leave nothing to ſay at their next meeting, interpoſed, and made the converſation general.

This was by far the moſt happy evening Frederick ever paſt; the hours roll'd inſenſibly away, and it was near two, before either of them thought of departing; and before they did, Frederick receiv'd permiſſion to wait on Louiſa, and gave her cauſe to expect a viſit from his father.

Although it has long been a maxim with the citizens, that it is more creditable to go home early in the

the morning, than late at night, yet Frederick, ſince he became a ſon, had kept ſuch early hours, that his ſtay alarmed the family. His father and mother did not fail to aſk the cauſe of it, and he thought it beſt to tell the truth: he gave them a true and circumſtantial account of his love for miſs Edwards, her former generoſity, and her late generous intentions in his favour, and ended with begging their permiſſion to addreſs her.

Mr. Nugent was perfectly acquainted with Louiſa's family and fortune, having been for ſeveral years very deeply engaged with her uncle, in the Weſt-India trade; neither of them admitted of any objection, and he readily conſented to make his ſon compleatly happy; and propoſed waiting on her himſelf, which he did, and the offers he made of ſettlements, &c. were ſo good, that had Louiſa ſtudied intereſt alone, ſhe muſt have been ſatisfied.

As Frederick had made no ſcruple of declaring to Mr. Vaughan the little ground he had to hope for a reconciliation with Louiſa, whom he believed to be too much irritated by his remonſtrances on her conduct, and knew to be above the temptation of wealth, ſo he was eager to inform that friend, of his joyful ſurpriſe the very ſame evening. He very ſoon after ſaw Mr. Vaughan, and related to him every circumſtance of that tranſporting ſcene, in which he had received not only certain marks of her eſteem, but an aſſurance of her intention of exerting, in the moſt generous manner, the power her affluence gave her, to extricate him from thoſe difficulties, in which ſhe believed him to be.

'I moſt ſincerely congratulate you, ſaid Mr. 'Vaughan, on your new acquiſition of happineſs,

'and I doubt not, but I ſhall ſoon ſee you united to 'that charming woman, in that ſtate, which, of all 'others, is, I believe, moſt perfectly happy, where 'there is that union of ſouls, which will ſubſiſt be-'tween you and Louiſa.'

'I thank you, replied Frederick, for your con-'gratulations, and heartily wiſh you would give me 'an opportunity of returning them. We have both 'had an occaſion to view our follies, and by your 'opinion of marriage, which agrees with mine, ſeem 'inclin'd to verify the old proverb, Reform'd rakes 'make the beſt huſbands.'

'I aſſure you, return'd Mr. Vaughan, it has not 'been my fault, that I'm not already a huſband; I 'have been very unfortunate in loſing the perſon, 'who, I believe, was deſtined to make me happy, 'and that I fear irrecoverably: and what's worſe, I 'think time, which is generally of ſervice in theſe 'caſes, has rather increaſed my paſſion, at the ſame 'time that it increaſes the improbability of my ever 'ſeeing her more.'

'How, ſaid Frederick, is this ſome random ſhot? 'Your amour ſeems more romantick than ever 'mine was; if you are not bound in honour to con-'ceal it, you will oblige me much by telling me 'the particulars.'

Mr. Vaughan, with a ſigh, began as follows. 'I 'own, Frederick, my amour has a great deal of the 'romance in it, and I ſometimes begin to fancy myſelf 'a knight errant in good earneſt: but that the dear 'creature has left too deep an impreſſion on my 'heart, I could almoſt think ſhe exiſted only in my 'brain; ſo ſhort does the time ſeem that I ſaw her

in,

'in, and ſo long the hours ſince. But you are a 'ſucceſsful lover, and will not like the ſighing of a 'diſconſolate one. This then is my ſtory.

'When the bad ſituation of my affairs obliged me to go abroad, I lamented much that the war prevented my going directly to Paris; where I had, in my former travels, contracted ſome valuable acquaintance. As ſoon as the peace permitted an intercourſe between the two nations, I went thither, where I ſoon renewed my former friends, and fell into the ſame round of diverſions I was before engaged in, and approved.'

'At a houſe oppoſite that I lodg'd in, I frequently obſerved two ladies, who, by their dreſs and appearance, I took to be Engliſhwomen, but gave myſelf no concern about them, notwithſtanding I thought the youngeſt, who did not ſeem to be above ſixteen, extremely pretty.'

'One morning my ſervant inform'd me, that the lady who liv'd oppoſite, deſired the favour of ſpeaking to me; I had too much politeneſs to refuſe her ſummons, little thinking then, how dear it would coſt me. I was received by the elder lady, who was an agreeable woman, about forty, extremely well bred, and had very much the appearance of a perſon of diſtinction. She made an apology for the trouble ſhe had given me, but ſaid, her being ſo unfortunate as to have no acquaintance in Paris, had induced her to apply to me (on finding I was an Engliſhman) to aſſiſt her in an affair which had given her a good deal of vexation. I aſſured her of my readineſs to ſerve her, and begged to know how I could do it? She anſwered me that her ſervant had unluckily been engaged in ſome riot in the ſtreet,

and with ſeveral others, had been taken up and ſecured; that ſhe thought the loſs of a faithful ſervant of ſo much conſequence, that ſhe would gladly be at any reaſonable charge to procure his liberty. I don't doubt, Sir, but you are acquainted with the manner of theſe things, and alſo with ſome perſons of conſequence, who may be of ſervice in the affair; and if you can obtain my ſuit, I ſhall think myſelf under the higheſt obligation to you.'

'I had liſtened with ſome attention to the lady, but I had view'd with much more the lovely young creature who came into the room while ſhe was ſpeaking; and ſo much taken was I in the inſtant, that I promiſed the elder, to do what ſhe deſired immediately. She was ſo good as to give me a paper, in which ſhe had wrote the particulars, which was a lucky precaution, for ſuch an impreſſion had the charms of the young lady made upon me, that I verily believe I ſhould have forgot all that the other had ſaid.'

'The hopes of ſeeing and converſing with her, made me undertake with great earneſtneſs, the cauſe I was employed in: I went immediately to a gentleman of the long robe, whom I had the honour to be acquainted with, and he accompanied me to the place where the ſervant was confined; where we found his chief fault was ignorance of the language, which had led him into ſome little miſtakes, and that in two or three days I ſhould be able to procure his releaſe. I was not diſpleaſed with the delay, as it gave me an occaſion of viſiting the lady oftener than I otherwiſe could have done. She gave me many thanks for the pains I had taken; and told me, ſhe did not doubt but I was ſurpriſed to ſee a woman of condition in a ſtrange country, without any acquaintance

quaintance, but ſhe had been much diſappointed. That having many years ago contracted an acquaintance with a lady of ſome rank in Paris, (who accompanied her huſband, who was employed in a public character, to England) ſhe had received frequent invitations from her, to viſit her here. That being much inclined to the journey, (as it would give her niece an opportunity of ſeeing the politeſt court in Europe) ſhe had taken the firſt means of coming, the peace allowed. But on her arrival, had the mortification to find her friend was gone to Italy, by which ſhe was deprived of all the pleaſure ſhe had promiſed herſelf.'

'I told her I had the honour to be known to ſeveral perſons of faſhion, both gentlemen and ladies, to whom, if ſhe would permit me, I would introduce her; that I was perfectly acquainted with all the public places, and ſhould eſteem it a particular favour, if ſhe would allow me to attend her and her niece to them.'

'She was ſo well pleas'd with my offer, that within a week, I eſtabliſhed her in a ſet of very polite acquaintance, and every day attended her and her niece in ſome party or other.'

'The oftener I ſaw and heard that lovely girl, the more was I captivated. But the ſtrict watch her aunt kept over her, made it impoſſible for me to declare my paſſion to her. She never ſuffered us to be a moment alone, and both at home and abroad, always placed herſelf between us; and if I did but endeavour, as I often did, to draw miſs Caroline to the other end of the room, to ſhew her ſome proſpect, her officious aunt was at my elbow in an inſtant.'

'Finding I had no hopes of addreſſing myſelf to the niece, I determined to apply for leave to the aunt; I thought my fortune and rank in life would licence my freedom; and one day, when ſhe was ceremoniouſly repeating her obligations to me, and her inability to return them, I told her, that ſhe had it in her power to make me an ample recompence for any ſervice I had done, or could do her. She eagerly aſk'd how? I told her, by conſenting to my love for her charming niece, which nothing, but my fear of a repulſe, had conſtrained me from declaring before; that I hoped my character and eſtate would, on enquiry, be found to anſwer ſuch expectations as ſhe might have for that young lady's eſtabliſhment.'

'Mr. Vaughan, ſaid ſhe, you have made me very unhappy, by requeſting the only thing which is not in my power to grant, and which my honour forbids me to conſent to. Her parents are living; I have only the care of her education intruſted to me, and wou'd not, for the world, that her affections ſhould be ingag'd, but by the concurrence of thoſe who have the abſolute diſpoſal of her. If you are willing therefore to preſerve my eſteem, think no more of her, ſince your perſiſting in this ſuit, will cancel all the obligations you have conferred on me, and muſt drive me to the extremity of rudely forbidding you my houſe, which, after your kind behaviour, I ſhou'd be very ſorry to do.'

'I was ſo thunderſtruck with this reply, that for ſome moments I cou'd not ſpeak; at laſt I recovered courage enough to beg leave to apply to miſs Caroline's parents; but ſhe forbad me in ſo peremptory

a manner, that I found I had no choice but ſilence, if I was willing to enjoy the pleaſure of ſeeing her.'

'Much as I was diſcouraged, I did not abſolutely deſpair: there was a maid ſervant who attended on the ladies, who I thought by her aſpect, if I had any ſkill in phyſiognomy, wou'd not be averſe from favouring my ſuit, provided ſhe gain'd by it.

'I immediately wrote a letter to my idol, filled with the moſt paſſionate declaration of love, truth, conſtancy, &c. and going the next morning, before I knew the ladies aroſe, deſir'd to ſpeak to Mrs. Anne, under pretence of ſending a meſſage to her lady. When ſhe appeared, I told her ſhe had it in her power to do me a great piece of ſervice, for which ſhe ſhou'd find me very grateful; then giving her my letter, accompanied with five guineas, I told her a favourable anſwer to it, ſhould be worth double that ſum to her, but that ſecrecy was abſolutely neceſſary.'

'I found I was not miſtaken in my judgment, ſhe dropt me a low curtſy, and told me I might depend on her fidelity, and indeed ſhe was as good as her word; for when I was going away in the evening, (having attended the ladies abroad) ſhe officiouſly prevented the footman's opening the door, and ſlipt a letter into my hand.'

'I was ſo rejoiced at my ſucceſs, that I rather flew than walked to my own lodgings, and haſtily opening my dear billet, found it as favourable an anſwer, as I could have flattered myſelf with. I doubt not but my faithful emiſſary had a hand in dictating

dictating it, for I don't believe my dear Caroline's natural reſervedneſs wou'd have permitted her to herſelf ſo freely to my firſt addreſs.

'My good aſſiſtant was not to be forgot, ſo I directly anſwered it, and that very night found means to pay the poſtage of the former, and give her a ſecond to deliver. And ſuch was her readineſs to oblige me, and my earneſtneſs, that for ſeveral days following, I both wrote and received letters from my charmer.

'We were now both under ſome difficulty, to conceal our thoughts from appearing in our eyes before Mrs. Murray; yet notwithſtanding her curious obſervation, we happily eſcaped ſuſpicion.'

'One morning my friend, Mrs. Anne, alarmed me exceſſively, by telling me, that I had now no time to loſe, I muſt either prevail with her young lady to put herſelf immediately under my protection, or loſe her for ever; for Mrs. Murray had the preceding night receiv'd letters, in conſequence of which, ſhe would go to England in about a fortnight, and that miſs Caroline was from thence to go directly to Jamaica.'

'I knew the conſequence of this deſign being effected, too well not to wiſh to prevent it, and inſtead of giving her the letter I had intended, I returned home and wrote another, in which I repreſented the news I had heard, in the ſtrongeſt light it would bear; aggravated every circumſtance, that could ſerve to terrify my dear Caroline from continuing with her aunt, and us'd every argument that could prevail with her, to leave her, and marry me imme-

immediately. And this addreſs was ſo well ſeconded by her attendant, that after one or two more, in order to ſatisfy ſome ſcruples which ſhe had remaining, I received her full conſent to my propoſition.'

'It was neceſſary to uſe great caution in this affair; and therefore to miſlead any enquirers after us, I gave out amongſt my acquaintance, and alſo to Mrs. Murray, that I was going into Italy. And as ſoon as the day was fixed for my dear Caroline's leaving her aunt, I took my formal leave of them both, and left my lodgings, having taken others in another part of the town, to which I had removed all my baggage, and where only miſs Caroline and her maid knew of my reſiding.'

'The ſuſpenſion I had in this retreat, from all other thoughts and amuſements, gave me time to conſider ſeriouſly on the conſequences of the affair I was embarked in. I abhorred the thoughts of taking the advantage miſs Caroline's youth and innocence gave me, to her prejudice; and I ſo well convinced myſelf that I ſhould be compleatly happy in the married ſtate with her, that I heſitated not a moment in reſolving to perſuade her to conſent directly to the performance of the ceremony; for which purpoſe I engaged the Engliſh ambaſſador's chaplain, to whom I was known.'

'I knew the manner of my marriage muſt expoſe me to ſome diſadvantages. Miſs Murray I found was an only child, her parents rich; but then I thought my eſtate might put me on a par with her. I knew theſe kinds of clandeſtine matches are liable to cenſure, but as I deſigned my two ſervants and her maid ſhould be witneſſes of it, ſo I intended, as ſoon as my affairs wou'd admit of my return to England,

land, to bring her hither, and introduce her with that ſhew, which was due to my wife and her fortune; in the mean time to write to her parents, to ſollicit their pardon and approbation of our nuptials; and even reſolved to take a voyage to Jamaica, if that could be of ſervice. Yet, as I only conſulted my own and her happineſs, and thought my eſtate, which would very ſoon be clear, would be ſufficient for our ſupport, her fortune gave me little concern.

'Thus ſettled in my own determinations, I waited with impatience for the happy moment that was to make her mine for ever; when the evening before the day ſet for her flight, I received, by the hand of a perſon unknown to me, this letter, which, as it was the laſt I ever had from her, has been my conſtant companion ever ſince. The letter was as follows.

Sir,

ON a review of my paſt conduct, I ſee ſo many reaſons to deter me from executing my intended purpoſes, that I can no more think of it. Do not place this change to the account of inconſtancy, for be aſſured, if I could excuſe to myſelf the taking a ſtep ſo very imprudent, I ſhould not heſitate a moment about flinging myſelf into your protection. But when I conſider the dangers it may expoſe you to, from my relations, who are powerful and capable of the higheſt reſentment, I dare not, for your ſake, undertake it. Add to this, the perpetual cenſure that muſt attend ſo giddy an action, in which, not only I ſhall ſuffer, but you will be included, and may at laſt be induc'd, by the opinion of others, to deſpiſe me for it. Think how miſerable we both muſt be in ſuch a ſituation, and

then

then I am ſure you will not accuſe me for paying that obedience which is due to my parents, in preference to love; which, in all probability, would not only render me miſerable, but the very perſon for whoſe ſake I broke all other ties.

I am willing to hope we ſhall not be for ever ſeparated; and aſſure you, that I ſhall always retain the higheſt eſteem for you, and ſhall do my utmoſt to hinder any engagement, which may be propoſed, from taking effect, as I have the greateſt opinion of your ſincerity, and hope to be able to reward it.

I am yours, &c.

C. MURRAY.

'Gueſs my aſtoniſhment and grief, continued Mr. Vaughan, when I had read this epiſtle! the perſon who brought it was gone, and I did not think it ſafe to ſend either of my own ſervants; ſo in my deſpair, reſolved on the moſt unadviſed thing that I cou'd have done, which was, to go myſelf to Mrs. Murray's, in order to have a conference with our confidant, Mrs. Anne. Luckily, the ladies were out, and I was directly admitted to her: I ſhewed her the letter, and aſked how this ſurpriſing alteration had happened? She told me that miſs had been very uneaſy and full of doubts, ever ſince I had taken my leave which ſhe had endeavoured to ſtifle; that this morning ſhe wrote the letter, and deſired her to convey it to me, which ſhe had refuſed; telling her, ſhe was ſure ſhe would change her mind: that miſs had aſſured her ſhe ſhould not, and that ſhe would find a way to ſend it herſelf.'

'Such proofs of her zeal in my ſervice, deſerved acknowledgment, and I gave her my purſe, with about ſeven or eight guineas in it, which bound her ſtill faſter to my intereſts, and ſhe bid me hope, that I ſhould ſee her and her young lady at the appointed time, notwithſtanding her declarations to the contrary.'

'After a long converſation, made up of promiſes and perſuaſions on my ſide, and aſſurances on her's, I was taking my leave, when Mrs. Murray bounced into the room, and ſoon let us know that ſhe was no ſtranger to our intentions.'

'She happened to come home juſt after I came, and calling for her ſervant, was informed ſhe was talking with me, which was ſufficient to excite her curioſity; and ſhe had liſtened to us ſo ſucceſsfully, that ſhe heard almoſt every word we had ſaid.'

'Never, ſurely, was woman ſo overcome with paſſion. She reproached me in the ſevereſt terms imaginable; with intending to ſeduce her niece, corrupting her ſervant, and deceiving her; every part of my crime, ſhe aggravated with great fury, nor wou'd ſhe give me time to ſay a word in my own defence, but forbad my ever attempting to enter her houſe again, and aſſured me ſhe would never ſuffer her niece to be out of her ſight, till ſhe had reſtored her to her parents.'

'Thus diſappointed in all my hopes, I was glad enough to get out of the houſe, to eſcape the opprobrious language ſhe loaded me with; and ſo much out of ſpirits was I, that I was aſhamed to appear in publick for ſome time after.'

'I found

'I found that Mrs. Murray left Paris the following week, and was as good as her word in guarding her niece, for ſhe was not ſo much as ſeen at the windows, nor ſtirred out of the houſe till the day ſhe left it intirely.'

'My terror for what ſhe muſt have undergone from the tyranny of her aunt, has not been the leaſt part of my grief ſince. And I aſſure you, that I ſtill love her with the utmoſt tenderneſs, ſpite of the improbability that I ſhall ever ſee her more, as ſhe is now, without doubt in Jamaica; and perhaps notwithſtanding her promiſe of conſtancy, obliged to conſent to ſome other match. This makes me ſometimes accuſe myſelf of folly, and think my conſtancy almoſt as romantick as Vincent's was; though I don't believe any other object will have ſo ſudden an effect upon me, as my ſiſter's charms had on him.'

Frederick thank'd Mr. Vaughan for the trouble he had been at in giving him this relation; and moreover bad him hope, that he might find a means to ſerve him; that his father's intereſt being pretty large in Jamaica, his recommendation of Mr. Vaughan to Miſs Murray's father, whom, it was probable he might know, might be of great efficacy.

This was ſome, though a ſlender a comfort to Mr. Vaughan, who acknowledged himſelf obliged to his friend for his kind intentions; though his own affairs, nor the ſeaſon of the year, (no ſhips being going yet to Jamaica) would permit him yet to put them in execution.

Frederick was now within view of the ſummit of his wiſhes, having nothing to wait for but the lawyers; gentlemen, who being neceſſary attendants

on people of any diſtinction, uſually retard the finiſhing of their reſolves, to the diſpleaſure of thoſe, whoſe love will plead an excuſe for impatience, and to the ſatisfaction of thoſe, who only wed for riches and alliances, and look on the partner for life, only as the manſion thrown into the ſale of the eſtate.

Our hero was not one of the latter, and would have thought them more tedious than he did, if he had not, in the mean time, had free liberty to ſee and converſe with Louiſa, whoſe charms heightened every time he ſaw her, as he had ſtill new opportunities of obſerving the excellent effect his leſſons had produced.

One evening, after ſtaying with her till it was pretty late, he was tempted, by the fineneſs of the night, to walk home, having lent his chariot to Mrs. Johnſon, (who was then in town) he was got very near his father's houſe, when going through a dark paſſage, which was a nearer cut than through the ſtreet, he perceived, by the help of a glimmering light at the end, a man, who ſtopt with, 'Your 'money, or your life this inſtant,' at the ſame time preſenting a piſtol Frederick anſwered, 'Not 'while I have ſtrength to defend either;' and catching the aſſailant by the arm, with his ſtick beat the piſtol out of his hand. The man being diſarmed, ſtruggled to eſcape, but Frederick ſtill kept faſt hold of him, and told him, that he muſt expect the puniſhment due to his crime, and forc'd him through the paſſage into the ſtreet. The villain then ſtruggled more violently, when Frederick called the watch, who being napping, did not immediately hear him, and in the ſcuffle, the robber's maſk fell off, and by the help of the moon, which ſhone very bright, and

the

the lamps, Frederick discovered him to be no other than captain Wilton!

'Tis impossible to describe the horror Frederick felt at this discovery, or the confusion Wilton was in; Frederick still kept holding him, and after remaining silent with surprise for some moments, 'Is it 'possible, cried he, that you, Mr. Wilton, can have 'taken to this practice? or is it only against me, you 'meditated mischief? Surely, your resentment is 'not so deep, as to make you an assassin?' Wilton quite covered with shame, answered in broken accents, 'No, Mr. Frederick, I have no enmity to 'you; but you are ignorant to what shifts, ne'cessity will drive the best disposed mind.' 'Ne'cessity, replied Frederick, should never tempt 'any man to be base: there are always some 'means for an honest man to use, to keep from 'want; I have known distress myself, and if you 'are really in need, I will assist you to the extent of 'my power, rather than you shall follow this shock'ing trade.' Wilton was quite confounded with Frederick's generosity, and replied, 'Alas, Sir, 'you know not what you offer, I have already so 'far transgressed the law, as to be liable to its se'verest sentence: let me go, I beseech you, you 'cannot serve me.' 'That's more than you know, 'return'd Frederick, trust yourself with me, and 'I give you my honour, I will not betray you, but 'do my utmost to save you from perdition.'

Wilton's fear and shame, made him incapable of thinking to escape from Frederick, and the assurances he had given him, joined to the knowledge he had of his fidelity, made him consent to accompany him; Frederick took him home with him, and with more good nature than prudence, told him, he should lie

with him that night, as all the family, his own ſervant excepted, being in bed, it would cauſe a buſtle to have one prepared for him.

As ſoon as they were ſeated, Wilton expreſſed his wonder at meeting with Frederick in that part of the town; Frederick ſatisfied his curioſity, in as few words as the occaſion would admit, and then deſired Wilton to inform him by what turns of fate, he had been reduced to the wretched condition in which he found him. After a little pauſe, he began as follows.

'Your good, and my very bad fortune, may be 'owing to the very different manners of our birth 'and education, which have produced ſuch very 'different effects. I was an only ſon, and reared 'with the utmoſt tenderneſs, as the only hope of an 'ancient family; my father's publick character, his 'appointments and fortune, made him think I 'ſhould make a very conſiderable figure in life, and 'ſtand a chance for honourable diſtinction; but his 'fondneſs was the original cauſe of all my errors: 'my mother and he did not live on very good 'terms, and he treated my ſiſters with great indif-'ference; I early imbib'd his principles, and as he 'was never ſparing in his allowances to me, I fell 'into all the vices of the age; he was ſeldom at 'home, and when my mother reproved me, I re-'turned it with diſreſpect. At length my extrava-'gancies began to exceed his liberality, but a young 'man of fortune may eaſily get money, and I found 'thoſe who were very ready to lend on mortgages 'of my reverſions. My father's death gave me 'very little pain, as that empowered me to live 'more at my eaſe; it was lucky my mother's join-'ture and my ſiſters fortunes were ſecured to them,

'for

' for in a very few years, I ſquandered away my
' whole patrimony. I then bought into the army,
' which I found a life very ſuitable to my inclina-
' tions, it being a maxim with the gentlemen of
' the ſword, that all kinds of rakery and debauchery,
' are conſiſtent with the character of a ſoldier. It is
' not to be expected that a man, who could not live
' on twelve or fourteen hundred a year, cou'd make
' a captain's pay ſuffice. I got deep in debt, and was,
' beſides, attached to an extravagant woman, (whoſe
' fall indeed, I have to anſwer for) whom I did not
' well know how to get rid of. I was in this ſitua-
' tion, when I firſt became acquainted with you:
' and your ſimplicity and ingenuity, firſt put it in
' my head to ruin you, ſince you wou'd have been
' ruined paſt redemption, if my ſcheme had ſuc-
' ceeded, and you had married Kitty Martin. I am
' now ſincerly glad you eſcaped the ſnare, though I
' own I was then vexed at it, and at the contemptuous
' manner in which you reſented my baſeneſs. You
' know I was very ſoon after obliged to ſell out, and
' indeed it mortified me that you ſhould be the pur-
' chaſer. The money I received, was not half e-
' nough to pay my debts, and I was obliged to ap-
' pear as little in publick as I could, to avoid being
' arreſted. I got into a herd of adventurers, none
' of whom were greater proficients in vice than
' myſelf, though they were better learned in the
' art of living at other people's coſt. Gaming was
' their head profeſſion, yet upon occaſion, they
' could exert themſelves in ſeveral other ways of
' knavery. Though I had played a good deal in my
' life, yet I was not adept enough to be employed
' in maſter-ſtrokes; I was made uſe of as a decoy
' duck, to draw the unwary into their ſnares, in
' which capacity I did them great ſervice. For I
' was ſtill looked on as Mr. Wilton, and though I

'had been a little unfortunate, while I appeared gen-
'teelly apparell'd, none of my former acquaintance
'ſhunned me. I introduced ſeveral gentlemen to
'my new friends, who all having the appearance
'of perſons of faſhion, were not ſuſpected; my
'buſineſs was to ſit by, and ſee fair play, and to
'make bets, which I was enabled to do by my em-
'ployers, who allowed me poundage out of what I
'won that way; another part, was to contrive
'private parties, in which the victim was ſure to be
'fleeced; for when there are no obſervers, the vul-
'ture can ſtrike his talons where he pleaſes; and it
'would be happy for all thoſe who love play, and
'either do not underſtand the tricks of gameſters, or
'will not practiſe them, that they would never be
'prevailed on to play in private, ſince here they give
'up all hope of detection.' 'Pray, interrupted Fre-
'derick, do you know Fiſher?' 'Yes, replied Wil-
'ton, he was in our ſet, and one of the cleverest
'amongſt them.' I know him alſo, returned Fre-
'derick, but pray go on.' 'Well, Sir, continued Wil-
'ton, I led this ſcandalous life till I was quite tired
'of it; my maſters did not pay me to my ſatisfac-
'tion, for I have frequently ſeen them divide the
'ſpoils which I have pointed to them, ſometimes
'ſix or eight hundred pounds in a night, without
'giving me a ſingle guinea. I ſuppoſe they kept me
'poor to make me aſſiduous. I complained of their
'behaviour, and threatened to blow them all; upon
'which, Fiſher (your acquaintance) catch'd me
'by the throat, and ſwore he would blow my brains
'out, if I did not retract that ſpeech, and ſwear to
'be true to them: fear, for I knew him capable
'of that or worſe, made me comply, and I contin-
'ued a little while longer amongſt them, till the
'ſeaſon approaching for Bath, Scarborough, &c.
'they divided to play off their tricks at thoſe places.

'None

'None of them chose to be hampered with me, and they took their leave of me, giving me a small supply, and Fisher repeated at parting, Lookee, Sir, if I hear, which I certainly shall if you dare, that you make free with any of our characters, expect my vengeance; not a joint of you, but shall feel it; I have a head to contrive, and a hand to execute more than your courage can support. I promised silence, but finding soon after, that our gang was suspected, and that I being the only one left in London, was in some hazard, I immediately disappeared.

'I went to a small sea port on the coast of Kent, having some thoughts of getting a passage to Calais, and going into the French king's service; this was only to be done by means of the smuggling cutters, then very numerous on that coast. I got acquainted with a very eminent master of one, and informed him of my intention, but he dissuaded me from it; We, said he, are the only people who live; we have riches at our command, and though we venture our necks for it, danger does but make it more sweet. The king's forces are better employed, than to interrupt us, and the country are all our friends; for while they can have tea, wine, brandy, lace, &c. at a cheap rate, they'll wink at us; and I believe, in case of an opposition, half the country would rise in our defence. All we have to fear, is the Custom-house officers, and those we frequently strike blind with a few guineas; and when they are foolishly honest, our cutlasses and blunderbusses silence them at once. Come, never think of taking Louis's pay, you shall be an officer in our independent company; we bid defiance to all laws but our own, and enjoy the sweets of liberty.

'I was

'I was prevailed on to accept his offers, and he introduced me to a company of about thirty, which was not near all our ſet, who received me with approbation; I was provided with a good horſe, armed with a cutlaſs, blunderbuſs, and a pair of piſtols, and initiated into the myſteries of the ſociety.

'Tis certain that no people run more riſk than they do; their life is one continued harraſs: we often found difficulty in landing our goods, and frequently rode up precipices with our horſes loaden, that it would turn one's head giddy, to look down; then ride forty or fifty miles, thro' bye roads acroſs the country, and when we came to any village (of which there are many in Kent) that eſpouſed our cauſe, make a haſty meal, at which our chief converſation was the moſt horrid execrations, and then fling ourſelves down on a heap of ſtraw, with our cloaths on, and our arms by us; for though we thought ourſelves ſafe, we were too wiſe to depend much on a defenceleſs ſecurity.

'I got a very good character for my diligence and hardineſs, and I was not diſpleaſed with my ſituation, my profits were great, and I was treated with much more reſpect than amongſt my gaming acquaintance. There was an equality throughout, except that one was nominated our chief, and he took his ſhare in all our dangers, and his ſhare of the profits was very little more than ours. His firſt cauſe of turning ſmuggler, was his ſtealing an heireſs, whom he carried to France, and meeting at Calais with ſome Engliſh ſmugglers, they perſuaded him to join with them, which the ſitua-

'tion

'tion of his affairs made him conſent to. He ſet-
'tled his wife at Calais, and while I was amongſt
'them, I frequently went thither, and was ſeveral
'times at his houſe.

'At laſt the law interpoſed, and proper methods
'were taken to bring us to juſtice, our gang was
'forced to diſperſe, and five hundred pounds were
'offered for ſecuring our commander.

'The vigilance with which the act againſt us,
'was performed, beat us quite off our play. Seve-
'ral of my intimates were taken and executed, and
'though I have been accuſed of cowardice, I know
'not how it was, I found myſelf ſtill inclined to fol-
'low the profeſſion of a ſmuggler.

'Our captain eſcaped to France, where he now
'lives quietly enough, and I propoſed to about half
'a ſcore of my companions, that we would lie by
'till the heat of the purſuit was over, and then
'ſtrike out ſome new plan for the carrying on our
'trade. We concealed ourſelves for ſome time,
'and as ſoon as we could venture ſafely, they elected
'me their captain, and I pitched on a convenient
'houſe for our purpoſe; it was cloſe to the water-
'ſide, and a very good place for landing our goods,
'and then it was ſo near to London, that we were
'ſure of getting a ſpeedy ſale, there being numbers
'of people in this town, whoſe buſineſs it is, to ſell
'contraband goods.

'As the Cuſtom-houſe officers are our ſworn ene-
'mies, although they are as good ſmugglers as the
'beſt of us, I was willing to be prepared for their
'reception, and fortified my houſe ſo well, that it
'could have withſtood a ſmart ſiege; beſides this,

'I had

'I had a private paſſage dug under ground, to the 'water-ſide, and a boat placed, to be ready at a 'minute's warning, and as a finiſhing ſtroke, I laid 'a train, by which I could ſpring a mine and blow 'up my enemies, if they ſhou'd get poſſeſſion.

'For ſome time we were very ſucceſsful, till at 'laſt one of my company was taken, and the reſt 'apprehending he would impeach us all, and turn 'evidence to ſave his own life, they determined to 'quit the kingdom; I endeavoured to diſſuade them 'from it, but in vain, for one night while I was 'gone to London, they riffled the houſe, took the 'boat, and where they went I know not. I was 'much ſurpriſed when I returned, to find myſelf 'robbed and deſerted. I did not think it ſafe to 'continue there, but came directly back to London, 'and concealed myſelf, now fearing I ſhould be 'taken, but my fears were groundleſs, for the poor 'fellow died in priſon, before he was brought to his 'trial.

'I had but little money with me, and when that 'was gone, I knew not how to get more; it was 'impoſſible for me to follow my old profeſſion with-'out an accomplice, and I was fearful ſince my laſt 'diſaſter, of ſeeking after one; at length my money 'being all gone, I reſolved to tax the publick, and 'have for ſome weeks followed that villainous em-'ploy, in which you found me. And now, Sir, 'I have told you my whole ſtory, and you have it 'in your power to bring me to an ignominious 'death, which I own I deſerve, for vile as I am, 'and have been, I am not yet ſo great a monſter, 'as to be incapable of reflection and remorſe; but I 'believe your goodneſs is too great to take the ad-'vantage my calamitous ſituation gives you.'

Frederick

Frederick, who had liſtened attentively to Wilton's ſtory, was ſilent for ſome minutes after he had done ſpeaking; he was ſhocked at the relation, and the horror Wilton's enormities inſpired, filled him with a pleaſing gratitude to Providence, that preſerved him when in diſtreſs, from doing any thing repugnant to reaſon.

It's very natural for bad men to be ſuſpicious; Wilton began to fear from Frederick's ſilence, that he had truſted him too far, and interrupted his meditation with ſaying, 'You certainly, Sir, have reaſon to ſeek revenge, ſince I have more than once endeavoured to injure you, but I hope you have more generoſity than to give way to what might, indeed, be deemed juſt reſentment. Conſider, Sir, I am now ſolely in your power,' and --- Here Frederick interrupted him, with, 'Mr. Wilton, you have nothing to fear from me; my honour, (which I value much dearer than any ſatisfaction revenge cou'd give) is plighted to you, and were it not, far be it from me, to take the advantage of diſtreſs; may you live to repent of your errors, and I again repeat, that I'll ſerve you as far as I am able.' Wilton, ſatisfied with theſe aſſurances, begged pardon for having doubted him; and Frederick began to conſider how he could beſt perform his purpoſe of ſerving him.

He knew it was ſcandalous for him to be ſeen in company with ſuch a wretch as Wilton; beſides, he had rendered himſelf ſo obnoxious to the laws, that it was dangerous for him to ſtay in England; he thought the beſt thing he could do for him, was to ſend him abroad, and reſolved to propoſe it to him, not doubting but Mr. Green, who was going very ſoon to Ja-

maica, wou'd take him with him, and on account of his recommendation, cauſe him to be treated with particular reſpect, and as Wilton was capable of being a very good clerk, he might, if he behaved well, be very ſerviceable to Mr. Green.

The next morning he propoſed it to him, and Wilton knew his own intereſt too well to refuſe; Frederick, in the moſt gentle and friendly manner, gave him ſome advice for the regulation of his future conduct, and touched on his paſt crimes with the utmoſt tenderneſs. Wilton's heart muſt have been more hard than adamant, if he had not been affected, and indeed he gave ſuch genuine marks of penitence, and ſuch ſolemn aſſurances of amendment, as gave Frederick the utmoſt pleaſure.

Frederick now happy, as friends, fortune, and the ſmiles of his beloved fair one cou'd make him, employed the time which muſt neceſſarily be taken up in preparations for the completion of his happineſs, in attending his Louiſa, and taſting with her, the pleaſure which the moderate enjoyment of publick diverſions and company beſtow. To give a turn to their pleaſure, it had been agreed to go to Windſor; Mr. and Mrs. Vincent, and Mr. Vaughan, (between whom Frederick had wrought a thorough reconciliation) being engaged for the party. He waited on Miſs Edwards early in the morning of the day agreed on, but was ſomewhat chagrin'd, when her ſervant informed him ſhe was abroad, at the ſame time giving him a note, which contained theſe words.

Sir,

Sir,

SOMETHING has happened which makes it abſolutely neceſſary for me to put off our intended party, of which I have given Mrs. Vincent notice, but I inſiſt on your dining with me, and if you will entertain my relation till I come home, you will farther oblige,

Your's, &c.

Louiſa Edwards.

Frederick's heart was ſo elate with his late ſucceſſes, that he reliſhed this diſappointment but very ill, and had a great mind to have gone away abruptly, but at laſt politeneſs prevailed, and he ſuffered himſelf to be introduced to the lady, who was prepared to receive him.

The ill-humour he was in, made him take little notice of her at his entrance, and after a formal bow and curtſy, each took their ſeats, and a ſilence enſued, which was broke, by the lady's crying out, 'Can it be? Sure it is! Are not you Mr. Frederick? 'And have you forgot your former friend Nancy 'Goodman?' Frederick, awakened from his lethargy, ſtar'd at her with attentive ſurpriſe, and ſoon diſcovered thoſe well known features, which convinced him of the reality of miſs Goodman's appearance.

For ſome minutes nothing paſt but demonſtrations of joy, and eager enquiries on both ſides; when, after their mutual tranſports were ſomewhat ſubſided, each begged to know what had befallen the other ſince their ſeparation.

Frederick, in as conciſe a manner as he could, related his adventures, and then deſired miſs Goodman to gratify his curioſity, which, after drying the tears that voluntarily fell, on the repetition of her father's death, &c. ſhe did in the following manner.

'After Mr. Kemp had left me, of whoſe offers 'you ſay you were informed, and my rejection of 'them, a lady came to the inn, to whom I was, 'ſomewhat againſt my will, introduced. She looked 'very attentively at me for ſome time, and apologiz-'ing for her curioſity, aſked me my name, which I 'told her, and then ſhe, with more eagerneſs en-'quir'd the place of my abode, and if my mo-'ther's name was not Lewis? To which, when I 'had anſwered in the affirmative, ſhe got up, and 'embracing me, cried, then you are my niece, the 'daughter of my deareſt ſiſter! I was much amazed 'at this addreſs, and ſeem'd rather ſtupid than 'otherwiſe, which ſhe perceiving, ſaid, I don't 'wonder, my dear, at your expreſſing ſo much 'ſurpriſe, and ſo little joy at ſeeing me; perhaps 'you never heard of me, or if you did, in ſuch a 'manner as may make you think but very indiffer-'ently of me.'

'I anſwered, indeed, I had heard of a ſiſter of 'my mother's, with whom none of the family held 'any correſpondence; No, replied ſhe, I have long 'been ſeparated from them, and their behaviour to 'me has been ſuch, as has made me have little 'deſire to return to them. I know not but your 'father would think you guilty, if he knew you were 'now with me; but your mother I ever lov'd with 'the utmoſt tenderneſs, and received leſs ſcorn from

'her

'her, than any of my family; and know, that ſhe 'was obliged to that by your father, who can make 'no allowance for human frailty.'

'Theſe words awakened the ſenſe of my own 'miſery ſo much, and the rigour I was to expect 'from him, that I could not refrain from tears, which 'fell in great abundance, and excited the pity and 'curioſity of my new-found aunt to know the cauſe, 'which I evaded, telling her ſhe enquired after my 'mother, who I inform'd her was dead, and ſhe 'paid a grateful tribute of tears to her memory.

'She then gave me an account of herſelf, which 'was, that being addreſſed by the brother of Lord 'D------, my father's patron, ſhe had, through 'youth, inexperience, and fear of want, been drawn 'in to conſent to live with him; when my father diſ-'covered the deſign, and treated both Mr. D------, 'and her with great virulence, which for a time put 'an end to his ſuit; and my mother's tender behavi-'our, advice, and remonſtrances, had ſo far con-'vinced her of the guilt of her intention, that ſhe was 'firmly reſolved never to yield to him on diſhonoura-'ble terms. After her ſeparation from my mother, he 'renewed his ſolicitations, but finding her virtue too 'much eſtabliſhed, to accept his propoſals, he of-'fered to marry her, on condition that ſhe ſhould 'ſolemnly promiſe never to divulge it while he lived, 'nor go by his name. Love prevailed, and married 'they were, but ſo privately, and the clergyman 'put under ſuch reſtrictions, that it was almoſt im-'poſſible it could ever be diſcovered.

'But this ſituation, where the confidence of her 'own innocence was her only ſupport againſt the 'calumnies thrown on her, and the ill-treatment

'of thoſe who believ'd her criminal, was very far 'from being happy, and Mr. D---- was far from 'endeavouring, by a continuance of tenderneſs, to 'make her eaſy, except by irritating her againſt all 'her relations, and making her promiſe never to 'ſeek a reconciliation with them; ſo that, after 'about three years of this uncomfortable wedlock, 'his death ſeemed a ſeaſonable relief from her op-'preſſions. His fortune was but ſmall, and he had 'lived freely, therefore what he could leave her, was 'but a very ſlender ſupport, and finding the preju-'dice againſt her, rather increaſed after his death, 'ſhe came to London, with an intention of turning 'her ſmall fortune into ſome way of trade, by which 'ſhe might get a more comfortable ſubſiſtence.

'In the ſame houſe where ſhe lodg'd, reſided a 'very eminent planter of Jamaica, who was come 'to London to ſettle ſome affairs, which required 'his preſence: he frequently ſaw and converſed 'with my aunt, and at length became ſo much 'enamoured of her, that he made a formal de-'claration, and concluded it with an offer of mar-'riage.

'Such an offer, from a man of his fortune, good 'ſenſe, education, and agreeable perſon, cou'd not 'but ſurpriſe her, and ſhe, after acknowledging 'her obligations to him, very ingenuouſly informed 'him of her circumſtances, which her appearance 'might lead him to think better than they really 'were, together with her former marriage, and the 'ſlander ſhe had undergone. This was far from 'working any alteration in Mr. Murray, except in 'her favour, and, in a ſhort time after, they were 'married, and went to Jamaica, where indeed ſhe 'had found, that marriage, is of all ſtates, the moſt

'happy

'happy, when there is a generous inclination on each 'ſide to contribute to the other's felicity.

'After this account, ſhe concluded it with ſaying, 'that ſhe had been bleſſed with one daughter, who 'according to the cuſtom of Jamaica, Mr. Murray 'wou'd have educated in England, and which was 'the only thing they had ever diſputed about, though 'he had yielded to her requeſt of coming to En-'gland, with her, and that ſhe was now returned 'from conducting her to a maiden ſiſter of Mr. 'Murray's who deſired to have the care of her, that 'ſhe ſhould ſtay a few weeks in London, and then 'return to Jamaica.

'My tears, which continued to flow with greater 'violence, when ſhe had finiſhed her narration, made 'her very earneſt to know the cauſe of my grief, 'and ſhe enquired it with the utmoſt tenderneſs, ſay-'ing, if it was within her power to ſerve me, her 'inclination was equal to her ability: won by her 'affectionate behaviour, I declared to her the cauſe 'of my affliction, previouſly telling her, that I feared 'the knowledge of my calamity would ſink me ſo low 'in her eſteem, that ſhe would recall her good 'wiſhes and kind profeſſions: but ſhe behaved far 'different from what I might have expected; ſhe 'gently touched on my imprudence, blamed my 'deceiver, praiſed my late reſolute conduct in with-'ſtanding his propoſals, and promiſed, if my father 'abandoned me, to aſſiſt me to the utmoſt of her 'power.

'When my father's final ſentence came, which 'drove me almoſt to deſperation, ſhe ſooth'd my 'ſorrows with exceſſive kindneſs, and made me 'an offer, which I gladly accepted, that of going

'with

' with her to London, and thence to Jamaica. We ' ſet off for London the next morning, altho' I was ' very incapable of bearing the fatigues of travel- ' ing; and on our arrival at Mrs. Edwards's, (mo- ' ther to Miſs Edwards, and ſiſter to Mr. Murray) ' I fell extremely ill, and for ſeveral days my life was ' deſpaired of. The tender care which was taken ' of me, not only by my aunt, but Mrs. Edwards ' and miſs Louiſa, was ſuch, as muſt make me ever ' eſteem them as the preſervers of my life, for I re- ' covered not only my health, but a greater ſhare ' of ſpirits, than I thought I ever ſhould have had. ' My aunt concealed my ſtory from them, with ' ſuch diligence, aided by a good phyſician, that they ' were ignorant of the principal part of my diſorder. ' When I was perfectly recovered, I took leave of ' my kind friends, and had been ſo happy as to gain ' ſo great a ſhare of their favour, that miſs Edwards ' and I exchanged promiſes of continual friendſhip, ' and have ſince continued to correſpond by letters, ' as often as the uncertain conveyance between the ' two iſlands would let us.

' On our arrival at Jamaica, my aunt preſented ' me to Mr. Murray with ſuch encomiums, as in- ' tereſted him in my favour, and he ever behav'd to ' me with great kindneſs.

' Mr. Edwards, brother to miſs Edwards's father, ' was pleaſed to honour me with particular marks ' of eſteem, almoſt on our firſt acquaintance, and ' ſome few months after, to the great ſurpriſe of ' my uncle and aunt, who did not think he would ' ever marry, after having liv'd ſingle till near three- ' ſcore, made a ſerious propoſal of marriage to me. ' My uncle and aunt both thought it an offer not to ' be refuſed, he being eſteemed worth near fifty

' thouſand

'thouſand pounds, and a man the moſt agreeable 'that cou'd be of his age. They were both ſo 'much charm'd with it, that I did not dare ſhew any 'diſlike to the offer, for fear of incurring their diſ-'pleaſure, and had great difficulty to perſuade my 'aunt, that my circumſtances wou'd not permit 'me to accept it.

'Thus embarraſſed, I reſolved to try my rheto-'rick on my lover, to perſuade him to drop his ſuit, 'and yet continue my friend. One day when we 'were alone, and he had been repeating his eſteem 'for me, and deſires that I wou'd become his wife, 'I told him how extremely difficult it would be for 'me either to be happy myſelf, or make him ſo by 'ſuch a union. I told him in the moſt pathetick 'terms, my misfortune in having unhappily placed 'my affections in England, on a gentleman who 'had rejected me, only for my want of a fortune 'ſuitable to his; how impoſſible it was for me to re-'turn his love, while under the power of a prepoſ-'ſeſſion. I aſſured him of my eſteem, and hoped 'he would not conſtrue to my diſadvantage the free-'dom of my declaration, ſince that eſteem I had the 'honour to have for him, forbade me to give him 'my perſon, when my heart was ſeparated from it.

'My diſcourſe affected him; No, miſs Goodman, 'ſaid he, you have encreaſed my eſteem for you; 'and here I promiſe you, that I will ever be your 'friend, though no longer your lover; I know my 'addreſſes have brought you into difficulties with 'your uncle, which I will find a way to end; come, 'look chearful, ſince you won't be my wife, I'll 'endeavour to get you the huſband you do like.

'His

'His kindneſs quite overcame me, and though I 'could entertain no hope from his laſt aſſertion, yet 'I looked on him with that reverential love I us'd to 'feel for my dear unkind father.

'He performed his promiſe in breaking off the 'match, without giving my uncle cauſe to reproach 'either of us; and from that time ſeemed to ſtudy 'my happineſs with great care.

'A fall from his horſe depriv'd me of a faithful 'friend, at the ſame time that it made me miſtreſs 'of an ample fortune. His age and corpulence 'made the hurt he received, very dangerous, and the 'ſecond day after it happened, his ſurgeon gave 'him little hopes. Mr. Murray was with him 'when the conſequences of his hurt were declared 'to be mortal; he received the news with great 'compoſure, and turning his face to him, told him 'he knew he was his executor, and that he had left 'his daughter ſomething to reward him for his trou-'ble. And added, pray deſire Mrs. Murray, and my 'widow that ſhould have been, to come and ſee me. 'We obeyed his ſummons, and he talked to us with 'much chearfulneſs; and when we were going to 'take our leave, he deſired me to ſtay, for he had 'ſomething to impart to me in private. As ſoon 'as my uncle and aunt had left the room, miſs Good-'man, ſaid he, when I firſt thought of marrying 'you, it was in conſideration of your merits, for I 'could not but think you would ſurvive me; from 'the time of your abſolute denial, I reſolved to do 'ſomething towards your happineſs; and though I ne-'ver had either your heart or hand, I've made you 'my widow. My fortune is of my own making, ſo 'I have a right to diſpoſe of it as I pleaſe: Louiſa

'Edwards

'Edwards is my only near relation, ſo I have left 'her ten thouſand pounds, which is enough, for her 'fortune is ſufficient without it. Mr. Murray is my 'old friend, and I was ſponſor to his daughter, to 'whom I have left the ſame ſum. The reſt of my 'fortune, money, goods, &c. which I believe is about 'five and twenty more, as ſoon as I am gone, is 'yours, and may it be a means of making you happy 'with the man you love.

'I was ſo overcome with his goodneſs, that I 'could only anſwer with my tears, and when I could 'ſpeak, it was with ſo much difficulty I expreſſed 'my gratitude, that it gave him pain, and he deſired 'me to leave him.

'He died in three days after, and when his will 'was read, I was nominated the heireſs to the beſt 'half of his eſtate, and Mr. Murray proved a faith-'ful executor, putting me very ſoon in the poſſeſſion 'of it.

'I had then thoughts of coming to England, 'hoping I might aſſiſt my father, whoſe circum-'ſtances I knew would bear improvement; I wrote 'to a ſiſter of Mr. Thomas's (not knowing whe-'ther ſhe was living) to inform me of my father's 'welfare (for my riches gave me confidence to write 'to my relations) and if you was ſtill with him, and 'ſome time after received an anſwer, acquainting 'me with his death and your flight.

'I was prevented from farther deſigns of com-'ing home, by my uncle's falling into ſo bad a ſtate 'of health, as made my preſence very neceſſary 'to aſſiſt and comfort my aunt.

'He

'He died about a year ago, juſt after he had ſent 'for my couſin Miſs Caroline Murray, to come to 'Jamaica, and my aunt intending to come and re-'ſide in England, thought proper to countermand 'thoſe orders, leſt any accident ſhould happen to 'her in her paſſage.

'My aunt, as ſoon as ſhe had ſettled her affairs in 'Jamaica, took her final leave of it, to my great 'joy; for though I met with the moſt polite treat-'ment there, yet I earneſtly wiſh'd to ſee England 'again.

'She is now gone with miſs Edwards to fetch my 'couſin from Richmond, where Mrs. Murray, her 'aunt, has left her; for having long had a quarrel 'with miſs Edwards, ſhe was ſo angry, on finding 'my aunt intended to reſide with her, till ſhe can 'ſuit herſelf with a houſe, that ſhe is gone poſt haſte 'to Scotland, leaving miſs at a boarding-ſchool there, 'with ſtrict injunctions that ſhe ſhould not be ſuf-'fered to leave it, except her mother came to fetch 'her away.'

Frederick thank'd miſs Goodman for her relation, and congratulated her on her good fortune, told her Mr. Kemp was ſtill unmarried, and he did not doubt, would gladly acknowledge his paſt miſde-meanors, and think himſelf honoured by an alliance with her.

As Frederick's life, during his ſeparation from miſs Goodman, had been much fuller of variety than her's, ſhe had a great many queſtions to aſk, and he to anſwer, which fully employed them till the la-dies came home; and then the ſatisfaction viſible in each

each of their faces, was ſufficient to convince them that they had not been ill entertained. Louiſa thought proper to begin an apology to Frederick, which he ſtopt ſhort, by ſaying, 'O miſs Edwards had 'you ſtudied to have obliged me more than you have 'already done, you could not have ſucceeded better; 'you have reſtored to me my dear adopted ſiſter, the 'ſweet companion of my juvenile days, whom I 'have long lamented as loſt.' One of a leſs generous diſpoſition than Louiſa, would probably have taken umbrage at this declaration, but ſhe had too good an opinion of both to be diſpleaſed; although it muſt be allowed, ſhe might have been permitted a little jealouſy, as ſhe was quite ignorant of that part of Frederick's ſtory which was connected with miſs Goodman's, as he had always ſuppreſſed it in his relations of himſelf, both as the remembrance of it gave him pain, and as he thought himſelf in honour obliged to conceal what would have reflected on her reputation; therefore, as he believed her dead, he had always reported her ſo.

Miſs Edwards preſented Mrs. Murray, miſs, and Frederick, to each other; the former he was already prepoſſeſſed to eſteem, and the latter was ſo perfectly agreeable, that he could not behold her, without a degree of admiration.

A particular examination of miſs Murray's features, gave him reaſon to think he had already received a very exact deſcription of her. Her name, age, every thing contributed to perſuade him, that this was the very miſs Caroline Murray, for whom his friend Vaughan ſighed. Curious to be convinced, he reſolved to mention him in ſuch a manner, as would, if this was the identical lady, produce ſuch an alteration in her countenance, as to his ſcruti-

nizing eye, might diſcover the truth, except ſhe had more art than he believ'd her miſtreſs of. 'Miſs 'Edwards, ſaid he, I think you acted very injudi-'ciouſly to-day; Mr. and Mrs. Vincent are family 'folks; I at preſent am a part of a family, but the 'very perſon whom you ought moſt to have conſi-'dered, you have forgot; you know Mr. Vaughan 'has kept no houſe ſince he came from France, and 'it would have been very proper to have invited 'him to dine with you.' 'I ſhould not have for-'got Mr. Vaughan, returned Louiſa, but as I 'thought it would not be ſo agreeable to introduce 'ſtrangers to my relations, immediately on their 'arrival, (you I find are none) for I have a very great 'eſteem for Mr. Vaughan, and ſo recommended 'him to his ſiſter's care.' Mr. Vaughan is extremely 'worthy of the honour you do him, replied Frede-'rick, he is poſſeſſed of as many good qualities as 'any man I know, and you oblige me by having a 'juſt value for his merits.' Here he ſtole a glance at miſs Murray, and received full demonſtration of what he was curious to know: her beautiful face was crimſoned with an innocent bluſh, her eyes were fixed on the ground, and ſhe ſeemed totally ab-ſorbed in the depth of her own reflections.

Frederick was now ſo happy in his own circum-ſtances, that he had nothing elſe to do, but to ſtudy the felicity of others, and no man ever endeavoured with more earneſtneſs, or entered more heartily into their intereſts; this made him impatient to ſee Vaughan, and inform him of the diſcovery he had made, and as he did not doubt but his and Louiſa's recommendation (for he found Mrs. Murray was diſpoſed to approve of his opinions) wou'd go a great way in his favour, ſo he intended to make him re-turn the ſervice, by bringing about an agreement

between

between Mr. Kemp and Miſs Goodman; for as he himſelf was a kind of a ſucceſsful rival to Kemp, and they had never convers'd with much cordiality, he thought Vaughan a much more proper engine, as there was a greater intimacy between them.

He took leave early in the evening of the ladies, and eager to put his ſchemes in execution, of making happy thoſe friends whom he much lov'd; he went to a coffee-houſe which Vaughan frequented, with the hopes of meeting him; and, after communicating the proſpect of his own happineſs, intended to engage him in his deſign on Kemp. But his plan of operations was fruſtrated; for on enquiring for him, he was told he was not there, but expected, a gentleman being then waiting for him; and on looking round the room, he perceived Mr. Kemp, whom he had not ſeen ſince his late ſucceſſes. Mr. Kemp was no ſtranger to his good fortune, and now approached him with an air of much more reſpect and complaiſance than Frederick expected.

After mutual compliments were exchanged, and Mr. Kemp had taken occaſion very politely, to congratulate him in the happy alteration in his fortunes, Frederick told him, he had ſomething to communicate to him, which he believed would be far from diſagreeable, and deſired his company in another room.

When they were ſeated, Frederick began as follows: 'I believe, Mr. Kemp, you have hardly for-
'got with how much ardour I once preſſed you to
'marry; and I believe the prejudice you then con-
'ceived againſt me, for the warmth I ſhewed in be-
'half of a perſon for whom I had the greateſt regard,

'has been with difficulty, if ever worn off. You 'will therefore wonder, that I ſhould now propoſe 'a marriage to you; but as I am willing to believe 'want of fortune, and the reſtrictions which filial 'duty laid you under, to maternal authority, were 'the chief objections you had to that propoſal, I 'can the more boldly offer this, as all thoſe obſta-'cles are removed: your mother is dead, and the 'lady I intend to propoſe to you, is miſtreſs of every 'qualification eſſential to matrimonial happineſs, 'and has, beſides, upwards of twenty thouſand 'pounds at her own diſpoſal.

'If, Sir, replied Mr. Kemp, you are ſerious, I 'muſt acknowledge myſelf obliged to you; but as 'a proof of it, give me leave to enquire the lady's 'name and family, and what aſſurances you can 'give me of ſucceſs, ſuppoſing I ſhould like her 'perſon well enough to give up my freedom to her?'

'Mr. Kemp, returned Frederick, I am far from 'being diſpleaſed at the doubts you expreſs; the 'lady is related to ſome of the beſt families in Ja-'maica, from whence ſhe is but a few days re-'turned; her perſon is agreeable, and her fortune 'actually what I report it, and I can aſſure you of 'her good opinion, but it muſt be your own applica-'tion muſt gain her; I will, if you pleaſe, introduce 'you to her; ſhe is at preſent with miſs Edwards, 'who will, I am certain, contribute her aſſiſtance 'towards ſerving you.'

Mr. Kemp could not help expreſſing wonder at this unexpected offer of ſervice, from a perſon whom he had never ſtudied much to oblige; and earneſtly deſired to know the name of the lady, which Frederick avoided telling him, till wearied with his importunity,

'tunity, Sir, ſaid he, you muſt not entertain the 'worſe opinion of my intention of ſerving you, when 'you are informed that the lady is no other than 'miſs Goodman.' 'Miſs Goodman! cry'd Kemp 'with ſurpriſe, is it poſſible ſhe can be living? Why 'I have ſearched almoſt every corner of England 'for her; for I feared ſhe muſt be expoſed to infi-'nite diſtreſſes, and I knew her virtue and conſtancy '(tho' both abuſed by me) would never ſuffer her 'to have recourſe to mean ways for redreſs. I knew 'you were unacquainted with her fate, for although 'I never mentioned her to you, yet I found means 'to get that intelligence; and though I could not 'have made her an honourable amends for the in-'jury I had done her, and knew ſhe would accept 'of no other, yet I intended, by ways of which ſhe 'ſhou'd have been ignorant, to have conveyed aſ-'ſiſtance to her. But tell me how ſhe has been pre-'ſerved, and by what ſtrange turns of fate ſhe is re-'ſtored to us, and thus portioned.

Frederick informed Mr. Kemp of all the moſt material circumſtances that had happened to miſs Goodman, (to which he liſtened with the moſt fixed attention) and concluded with ſaying, 'Now, 'Mr. Kemp, it is in your power to complete the 'happineſs of a woman moſt truly deſerving of 'the utmoſt eſteem you can entertain for any 'mortal; her perſon and fortune are ſuch, as 'will merit you the congratulations of your friends, 'and as to her misfortune, it is ſo much a ſecret, 'that yourſelf and Mrs. Murray are the only per-'ſons acquainted with it. Can you then reſolve 'to make a deſerving woman amends for the long 'anxieties you have occaſioned her? and, if it is 'not your own fault, yourſelf happy alſo, ſince 'I dare engage for her endeavours to make you 'ſo.

'I ſhall not heſitate a moment in my anſwer, re-
'plied Mr. Kemp, for although I treated miſs Good-
'man in a manner unworthy of her deſerts, yet I
'aſſure you, I never ſeriouſly conſidered her, but
'with high eſteem; and if ſhe will forgive my for-
'mer errors, and honour me with her hand, I will
'endeavour to approve myſelf worthy of that con-
'fidence. But when ſhall I ſee her? for I ſubmit
'now to your directions, and ſhall expect to be
'guided by you to my future happineſs.'

'To-morrow in the evening, anſwered Frederick,
'I will, if you pleaſe, congratulate you both on a
'happy meeting, after a ſeparation, which I am cer-
'tain has been very tedious to her.'

Here they were interrupted by a meſſage from Mr. Vaughan to Mr. Kemp, who, on hearing the latter was engaged, had waited till his patience was worn out; for both Frederick and Mr. Kemp had been too deeply engaged to think of him, notwithſtanding Frederick's firſt intended buſineſs was with him.

They now deſired him to walk in, and after apologizing for their rudeneſs, Frederick addreſſed himſelf to him, ſaying, 'Mr. Vaughan, I have
'been giving Mr. Kemp an account, which I had
'intended to ſuſpend if I had met you firſt, as I came
'here with news of great importance to you, but
'having equal to declare to him, his punctuality has
'favoured him in getting the firſt intelligence:
'and now to make you amends for waiting, I will
'give you yours; which is, that this day I have
'diſcovered the object of your wiſhes, and have
'great hopes that I can be inſtrumental in gaining

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'the conſent of thoſe who have the diſpoſal of her
'to approve of your ſuit.' 'How, cried Mr.
'Vaughan, have you found my Caroline? Don't
'joke, I charge you, for this is a matter of ſo ſe-
'rious a nature, that I'll never forgive it, if you
'deceive me.' Frederick could not help laughing at Vaughan's earneſtneſs; but recovering his gravity, he aſſured him, that what he had told him was truth, and convinced him of it, by relating every circumſtance, and promiſing his own and Louiſa's intereſt for his ſucceſs. Mr. Vaughan was ſo much tranſported with this news, that he hardly knew what to ſay; but expreſſed much ſurpriſe, that in the long intimacy between his ſiſter and miſs Edwards, his and Frederick's frequent viſits, they had never ſeen miſs Murray, or heard her mentioned. Frederick was as much at a loſs as he, but aſſuring him that he was certain he was not miſtaken, bade him depend on him for his ſucceſs: and telling Mr. Kemp he would call on him the next evening, he took his leave.

The next morning he waited on Louiſa, and in a private conference, informed her of the buſineſs he had tranſacted the preceding day; gave her ſatisfactory anſwers to all the queries, neceſſary to her underſtanding both the ſtories, and engaged her to uſe her intereſt with her aunt in Mr. Vaughan's favour; and then enquired where this lady had lain hid ſo long, that he nor Mr. Vaughan could never find her out before? She informed him, that the lady who had the care of miſs Murray's education, had taken a pique to her, when ſhe was very young, or rather to her mother, thinking herſelf injured by her father's leaving her a larger legacy, on account of her having a daughter, than to the other who was ſingle, and had declared againſt marriage. That

they

they never correſponded with any affection after, and that when ſhe came to the poſſeſſion of her fortune, ſhe had blamed her conduct with ſo much virulence, that no reconciliation could be effected between them, and ſhe would never ſuffer her to ſee miſs Murray, or that young lady to go any where, that ſhe was likely to meet with Louiſa. That ſhe had endeavoured to ſet Mrs. Murray as much againſt her, which when ſhe found ſhe cou'd not effect, ſhe had left miſs in the manner before related, and was gone to vent her paſſion in Scotland.

Frederick then went to miſs Goodman, to whom he related his ſucceſs, and prepared her to receive Mr. Kemp in the evening, at the ſame time, inſiſting on her uſing her intereſt in behalf Mr. Vaughan.

He was punctual in his promiſe to Mr. Kemp, whom he introduced to miſs Goodman, and with great pleaſure ſhared the ſatisfaction that appeared on both ſides, and was witneſs to the excuſes on one part, the forgiveneſs on the other, and exchange of profeſſions of eſteem, and deſires of making each other happy.

Louiſa was not leſs intent on the ſervice ſhe was to do her friends, than Frederick, but was at that very time preparing Mrs. Murray to expect Mr. Vaughan's application for her daughter. She gave ſo good a character of that young gentleman, which indeed was juſt, that ſhe prepoſſeſſed Mrs. Murray in his favour, before ſhe ventured to relate the former acquaintance between him and miſs. Frederick, coming in while they were engaged in this diſcourſe, aſſiſted Louiſa with every argument that was wanting, to incline the fond mother to conſent to her daugh-

ter's

ter's happineſs: the encomiums Frederick made on the ſincerity and conſtancy of the one, and on the prudence of the other, joined to his preſſing intreaties, prevailed, and he received her leave for Mr. Vaughan to wait on her as ſoon as he pleaſed.

Frederick cou'd not reſt till he had acquainted Vaughan with the ſucceſs of his negociation, and engaged himſelf to conduct him the next day to the object of his wiſhes.

The joy which attended the meeting between this pair, who had almoſt deſpaired of ever attaining that happineſs, may be much better imagined than deſcribed, ſince even they could hardly find words to expreſs it: yet when they did come to an explanation, each found more cauſe to admire the other, and both agreed in thinking Frederick the reſtorer of their felicity.

Frederick was cautious of truſting any body with the hiſtory of Wilton, not that he feared any of his acquaintance would hurt him, but as he thought the remembrance of his crimes, was a ſufficient puniſhment, without the confuſion of their being known. He had the next day after his meteing with him in the ſcandalous ſituation before deſcribed, told his father, that he had accidentally met a gentleman, with whom he was acquainted while in the army, who had been forced to ſell his commiſſion, and was now ſo much diſtreſſed, as to be obliged to go abroad; that he wiſhed Mr. Green would take him, and that in order to propoſe it, he had brought him home with him. He then introduced him to his father, and ſaid ſo much in his favour, that he readily conſented; and Mr. Green had too much

reſpect

reſpect for his young maſter, to make any objections.

As Frederick could not forget the obligations he owed to his couſin, captain Smith, nor the great expectations he had loſt, by the former being proved to be his relation, (for he was Mrs. Nugent's favourite kinſman) ſo he determined to provide for his two ſons, who were now of an age proper to be ſettled in the world; he propoſed it to his mother, who was much pleaſed with his gratitude, and the regard he ſhewed for her relations. The eldeſt had an inclination to the military life, from which Frederick, (whoſe experience had taught him the dangers which attend young men in that ſituation, who have no other proviſion) would have diſſuaded him, but he found in him too much of that heroick ardor with which he had been fired, to uſe many arguments, and he gratified the young gentleman's ambition, by buying him a commiſſion.

The youngeſt was of a much graver diſpoſition, and on Frederick's putting the choice of an employment to him, he pitched on that of a merchant, and was placed for ſome time in the compting-houſe, in order to his being eſtabliſhed in the mercantile way, which afterwards, by Frederick's aſſiſtance, was done, and in which he had great ſucceſs.

Mr. Green having finiſhed his buſineſs in England, embarked for Jamaica, taking Wilton with him, who had been kept privately at Mr. Nugent's, under the notion of being much in debt. Frederick repeated his advice to him at parting, and Wilton made the moſt grateful acknowledgments for his goodneſs, and promiſes of a thorough converſion; and though he failed in ſome trivial articles of the latter,

latter, yet he behaved ſo well, as to merit a kind treatment from Mr. Green, and continued in an advantageous poſt under him.

The addition of ſo many concurrent circumſtances for joy, made Frederick think himſelf now arrived at the height of human happineſs. He was bleſſed in friends, fortune, and reputation, and in having been inſtrumental in procuring happineſs to thoſe he moſt eſteemed; and the behaviour of Louiſa, gave him every day new cauſe to approve his paſſion for her, and to rejoice that the day now drew near, that was to unite him for ever to her.

The ceremony was performed in the preſence of both their friends, whoſe obligations to, and eſteem for them, made them wiſh them a perpetual continuance of that happineſs they had in view, and which was due to their great merits.

They received the congratulations of a very numerous ſet of acquaintance, each of whom was proud of the honour of paying that reſpect to a pair, who ſeemed to want no addition to their felicity, and which, by the generous and tender behaviour of Frederick, who has continued to ſee and admire thoſe perfections in Mrs. Nugent, that had charmed him in miſs Edwards, and the prudent and affectionate conduct of Louiſa, ſtill maintaining that noble, generous, unſuſpecting eſteem for Mr. Nugent, that ſhe had entertained for captain Frederick, joined to the delight each takes, in pleaſing the other, has continued uninterrupted ever ſince their marriage; and from the good ſenſe, good nature, and noble affection of each, may be expected to continue beyond the date of thoſe external charms, which firſt caught their attention, and taught them to improve

prove thoſe more laſting ones of the mind, from which alone, true happineſs can ariſe in the nuptial ſtate.

Mr. Kemp was very ſoon after married to miſs Goodman, and although by his paſt character and behaviour, their happineſs might be doubted, yet Mrs. Kemp has, by her prudence and affection, ſecured to herſelf ſuch a return of kindneſs, as will admit of no diſſatisfaction.

Mr. Vaughan and miſs Murray, had the beſt ſecurity that can be given for matrimonial felicity, in the integrity of their hearts, and the irreproachableneſs of their conduct, joined to the advantages of wealth, and the approbation of all thoſe whom they eſteemed; nor have they, ever ſince their marriage, which was ſoon after Mr. Kemp's, diſcovered themſelves miſtaken in their notions of happineſs.

A continual harmony and friendſhip have ever ſince ſubſiſted between all theſe families, as alſo captain Johnſon's, captain Smith's, and Mr. Vincent's, with our hero, whom having now conducted through the viciſſitudes of life to perfect happineſs, we ſhall put a period to this hiſtory.

FINIS.